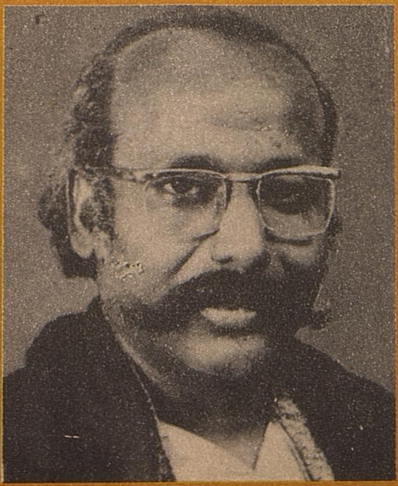
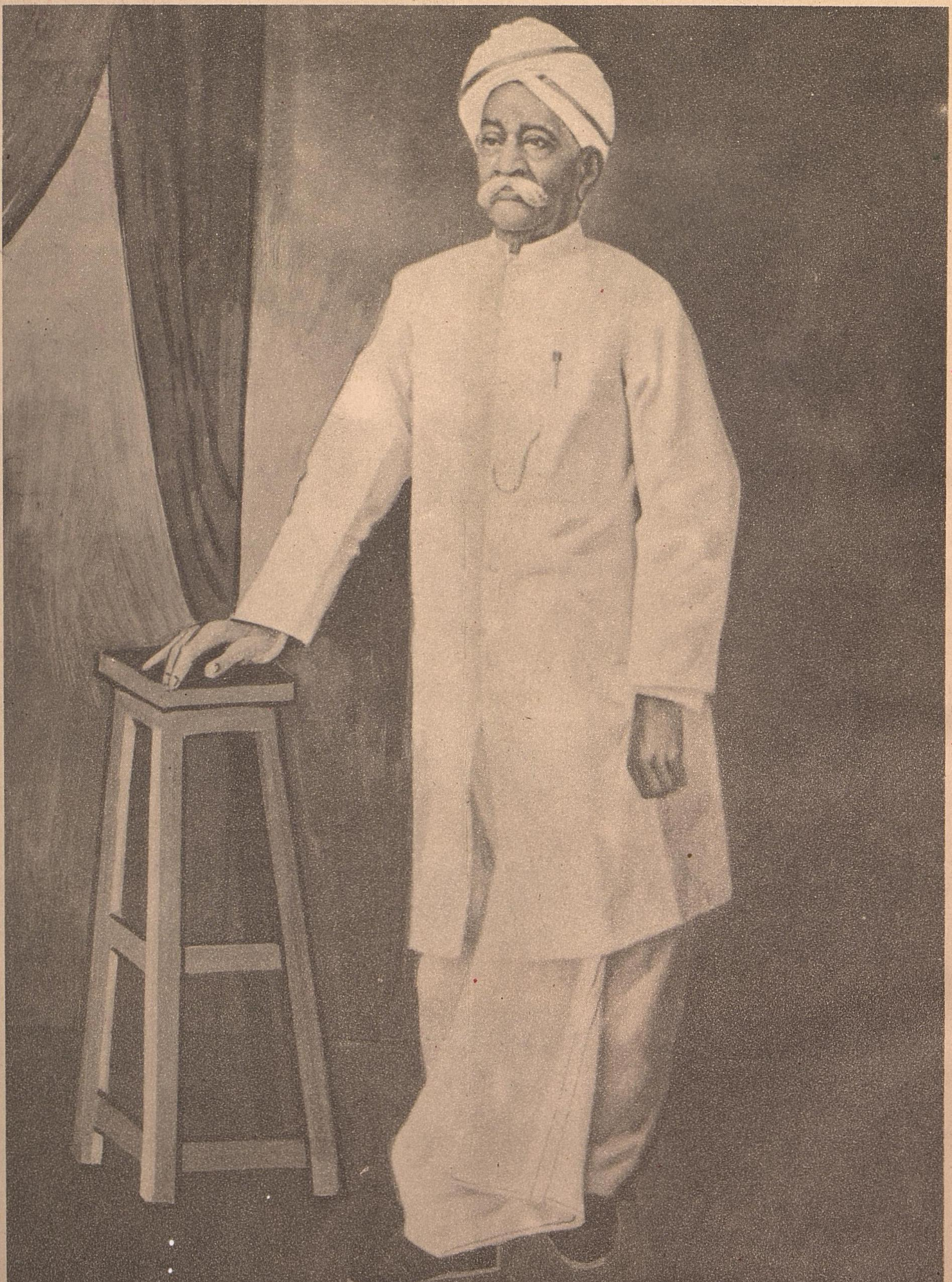
Tamil Arasu

MAY 1989 Re. 1





Sir P. THEAGARAYA,
the champion of the underprivileged

BORN ON: 27-4-1852. DIED ON: 28-4-1925.

Tamil Arasu

A monthly Journal of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR 2020
MAY 1989.

★The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

★Free Rice Distribution Scheme

★The Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police.

★Chief Minister's reply to the Debate on the Budget.

★Tamil Nadu Budget-Views of Press and Associations.

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★Rs. 100 Crore plan to Improve Madras City.

★The National Conference of Voluntary Agencies.

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★The French Film Festival.

★Bharathidasan-The Great Poet.
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★The Tale of the Anklet-(Preface)-
Play written by Dr. M. Karunanidhi.

★The Tale of the Anklet (Anna's thought)

Platinum Jubilee

Celebrations of the Indian Cinema

Hon'ble President of India Thiru R. Venkataraman, on 16th April lighted the traditional Kuthuvilakku to mark the inauguration of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Cinema in Madras.

In a glittering function of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Cinema and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce (SIFCC) the President advised the film Industry to shed its twin obsessions of sex and violence. He also traced the history of Indian Cinema and recalled the contributions of Veterans like Late C.N.Annadurai and the present Chief Minister Thiru M.Karunanidhi. He also mentioned about the late M.G.Ramachandran, who acted in films. Reference was made to Tmt. M.S.Subbulakshmi, carnatic Musician. Research had established a direct corelation between violence and society and that depicted in film. He said that Entertainment therefore must not be at the expense of values.

The President recalled that the rise of the Indian cinema synchronised with the national struggle for freedom. Themes such as patriotism and social reform were portrayed in films. No one could forget a film "Thyagaboomi." He paid glowing tributes to film personalities like Dadashaheb Phalke, Sohrab Mody, S.S.Vasan, K.Subramaniam, A.V.Meiayappan, Mehboob Khan, Bhimal Roy, Prithiviraj Kapoor, Raj Kappoor, Nagi Reddy, V.Santhanam, Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, P.U.Chinnappa, S.G.Kittappa, K.B. Sundarambal, K.L.Saigal, Devika Rani, Durga Khote Balraj Sahni and M.G. Ramachandran.

Thus the last 75 years had witnessed a resurgence of the film Industry. He said because of the advent of TV and Video Coverage, daily attendance in the 13,000 cinema houses in the country was estimated at about 3 crores. For more than a decade, India had been the largest producer of feature films.

"It is my hope that the platinum jubilee of the Indian cinema will lead to a creative introspection in the industry. In fact, it is my hope that in this 75th year of its career, it will become less of an industry and become more of an art".

C.M.Honoured: As many as 75 veterans from various departments of film industry were honoured. The first to be bonoured was Dr.M. Karunanidhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Mini

ster who received a shawl and silver medallion from the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Thiru H.K.L.Bhagat. **Other Veterans Honoured**: The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi honoured the other veterans including Messrs. Ashok Kumar, L.V.Prasad, Hrishikesh Mukerjee, Sivaji Ganesan, A. Nageswara Rao, D.Ramanujam, Anjali Devi, Sarada, M.Saravanan, M.N. Nambiyar, G.V.Iyer, Raj Kumar, G.P.Sippy, Pran, G.Umapathy, Sundarlal Nahata, Ajit Bose and Sudhir Phadke.

Thiru N.T.Rama Rao

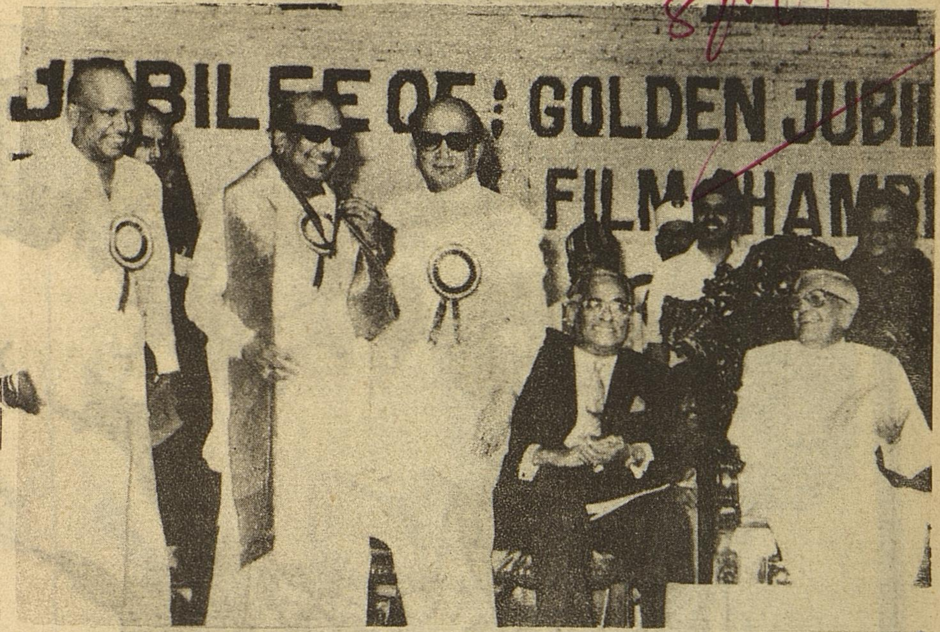
The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and veteran actor Thiru N.T.Rama Rao, and producer Thiru B.Nagi Reddy were among those honoured in absentia. There was thunderous applause as the Chief Minister Dr. M.Karunanidhi, Sivaji Ganesan, Ashok Kumar and Nambiyar were honoured.

Thiru Bhagat released a book on "the Genre of the Indian Cinema" published by the Film Federation of India (FFI). The Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr.P.C.Alexander, released a souvenir to mark the SIFCC golden jubilee.

The Governor said that the video boom and TV would kill cinema. But this was not in the case of the west and Good Cinema would always be appreciated in the western countries, control had been exercised on the inroads of video into film industry. He was astonished that in the year 1980, 482 films had flopped out of the 742 films produced. Films that became box office hits were 48 and 212 made even.

MGR Award: The Chief Minister assured the SIFCC that the State Government would help the film industry as much as possible. He had already announced that the Tamil Nadu Government would revive the practice of giving film awards which was stopped five years ago. One award would be instituted in the name of the late Chief Miniter and film actor Thiru M.G.Ramachandran.

The Chief Minister recalled how during the era of silent films



a narrator would stand behind the screen and narrate the story of the film. He was extremely happy to honour the veterans..

Thiru H.K.L.Bhagat the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting who presided, said that the Centre had appointed a high level committee to look into the problems of the film industry and the representatives of the industry would get the opportunity to place their views before a final decision taken to find solutions to their problems. To facilitate import of quality films and expose the Indian audience to the best of world cinema, a policy for import of feature films and video rights had been formulated under which only those films which won awards or received good reviews would be imported.

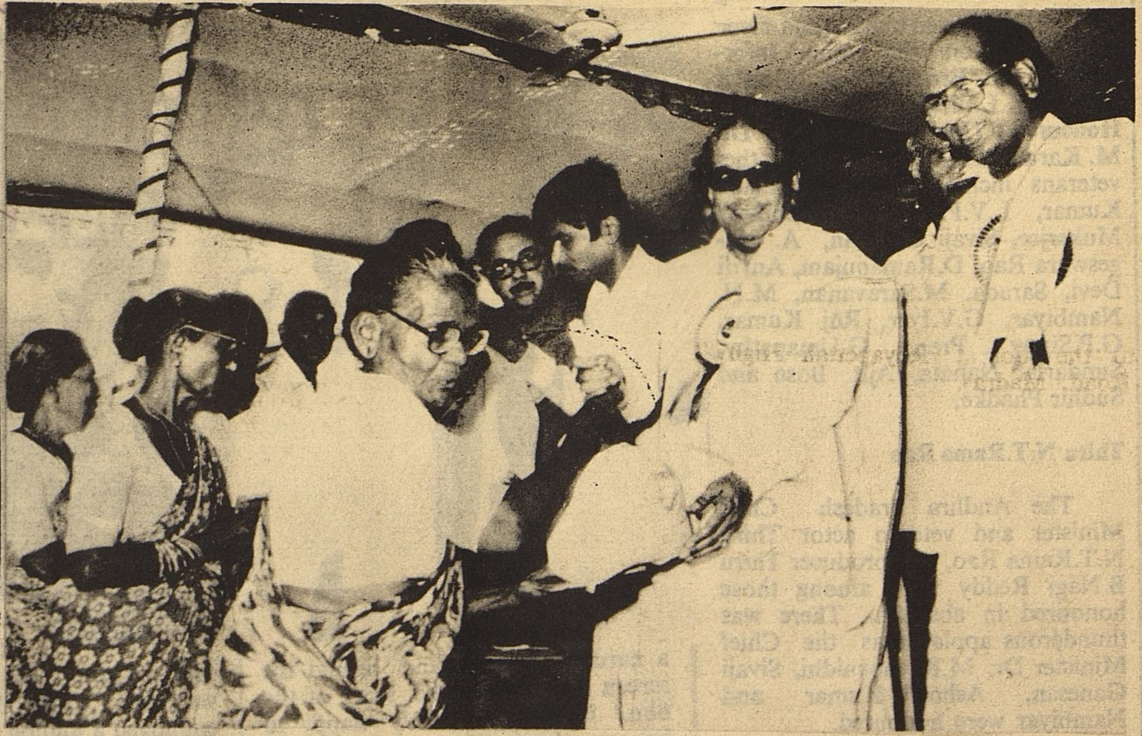
The Minister for Information Thiru Pon.Muthuramalingam, said films played an important role in educating and entertaining people.

The SIFCC President, Thiru R.Lakshmanan, said the Film Chamber was founded in 1939. Thiru F. Satyamurthy a veteran freedom fighter was its first President. If India today ranked among biggest films producing countries it was because South India contributed 70 percent of the films produced.

Rs.2500 Cr. investment-: The FFI President, Thiru A.Ramesh, said the investment in Film industry was now Rs.2,500 crores and it employed a million people. It had achieved this status on its own resources without assistance from any institutional finance or protection from any quarter. The various amendments to check the threat of video to film industry had not paid dividends. The NRI's import of films, except the award winning ones, should be stopped. Subsidised power should be made available to cinema houses.

Thiru G.P.Sippy., the Organising Committee Chairman welcomed the gathering. He said that the Indian film industry had come a long way from the first silent film 'Raj Harischandra' released in Bombay on 3rd May 1913 to the present day 70mm films. He expressed regret that out of a gross collection of Rs.1,000 crores at the box office, more than Rs.600 crores was taken away by State Governments as entertainment tax, which did not leave the film industry in a healthy condition to entertain. While the film industry struggled hard to make films, people watched them in their homes through the piracy of the cable TV and duplicated videos without paying money to the film producers.

Thiru L.C.Bakliwal the FFI Vice-President proposed a vote of thanks.



Free Rice Distribution Scheme

THE Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi launched the State - wide free rice distribution scheme for the poor on the Tamil New Year's Day. Under the Rs. 20 crore scheme 76 lakh family card holders with monthly income of Rs.300 were given five kilos of rice till 30th April. The Chief Minister has made history by his new scheme - 'Free Rice Distribution to the poor'.

Inauguration:

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Free Rice Distribution scheme in his Harbour constituency in Madras. The other Ministers and MLAs participated in similar functions and distributed 5 kilos of free rice in other centres.

Implementation:

The free rice scheme is implemented through 65 primary co-operative society outlets, 4,500 village level cooperative societies, 3,752 urban fair price shops, and over 17,000 rural fair price shops. It assures each family, 15 kilos of rice on three important occasions - Pongal, Tamil New Year's day and Deepavali in the State.

Other Schemes:

The Chief Minister also announced that other schemes in the budget including the one for the transfer of ownership to taxi, autorickshaw drivers and cyclerickshaw pullers, would be implemented from 1st May.

Poll Promises:

Referring to the poll promises made in the election manifesto, the Chief Minister declared that the new Government had fulfilled 75 percent of its promises within a short span of 77days after it came to power. Unlike other party Governments, the DMK Government had made only promises that could be implemented. He recalled that in the year 1929, the Self-Respect Movement had passed a resolution to give property rights to women. This Government had now introduced a bill to give effect to that resolution.

The Food Minister Thiru Arcot Veerasamy pointed out that the Centre had reduced the quota of rice allocated to the state from 80,000 to 40,000 tonnes. In spite of this, the free rice scheme involving distribution of 1.20 lakh tonnes to the poor was implemented.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies Thiru Arumugam, IAS., while welcoming the gathering, said 1.4 lakh tonnes of essential commodities were distributed monthly through the Public Distribution system.

The Chief Secretary Thiru M. M. Rajendran, I.A.S. presided over the function. The Handloom Minister Thiru S.Thangavel and Thiru Murasoli Maran M.P., and other MP's participated in the function.

Five kilos of free rice were distributed to the poor at the following places by the Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Ministers and other M.L.A.'s.

The Speaker Thiru Tamilkudimagan distributed rice at Ilayangudi.

Ministers:

The Education Minister Thiru Anbazhagan distributed rice to the poor at 'Chintamani' Anna Nagar, Madras.

Thiru Sadiq Basha, Minister for Law distributed rice to the poor at Udumalpet, Pollachi.

Thiru Nanjil K. Manoharan, Minister for Revenue distributed rice to the poor at Royapettah High Road, Madras.

Thiru M.Kannappan, Minister for Transport distributed rice to the poor at Palladam, Coimbatore.

Thiru K.P.Kandasamy, Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments distributed rice to the poor at Tuticorin.

Thiru Arcot Veerasamy, Minister for Food distributed rice to the poor at Ayyanavaram and Madavaram High Road, Madras.

Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam, Minister for Information and Labour distributed rice to the poor at Madurai.

Thiru Durai Murugan, Minister for Public Works distributed rice to the poor at Vellore.

Tmt.Subbulakshmi Jagadisan, Minister for Social Welfare and Rural Industries distributed rice to the poor at Erode.

Thiru E.Ramakrishnan, Minister for Adidravidar Welfare distributed rice to the poor at Kancheepuram.

Dr. K. Deivasigamani (alias) Ponmudi, Minister for Public Health distributed rice to the poor at Villupuram.

Thiru K.N.Nehru, Minister for Electricity, distributed rice to the poor at Trichy.

Thiru Chandrasekaran, Minister for Animal Husbandry distributed rice to the poor at Pudukottai.

Thiru S.Thangavel, Minister for Handlooms distributed rice to the poor at Raja Annamalaipuram at Madras.

Thiru Duraisamy, Deputy Speaker distributed rice to the poor at Namakkal.

Thiru L.Ganesan, Parliamentary Secretary to Chief Minister distributed rice to the poor at Thanjavur.

CONFERENCE OF COLLECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE

The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the two day Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police at Secretariat on 15th April 1989. The Conference was convened by the Chief Minister to discuss ways and means to solve certain important problems-Drinking Water Problem, Drought Relief, Supply of Foodgrains etc. He has directed all District Collectors to send fortnightly reports to the Government on the progress of the various welfare schemes implemented. He also instructed them to devote full attention to tackle the drought situation.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the Collecters should discuss with the officials concerned about the drinking water situtation in their respective districts at least once in every fortnight. The Chief Minister went on to emphasize that the Collectors should prepare proposals for drought relief measures on a war footing and ensure uninterrupted supply of foodgrains through the public distribution system. He also pointed out that all efforts should be taken to generate more and more employment opportunities for those rendered jobless due to drought. He stressed that necessary steps should be taken well in advance to tackle fodder and other problems connected with drought.

Despite the Government order to sink 5,000 borewells for providing drinking water, the work on this was very slow. Similarly many schemes and projects were delayed and had not been implemented for several years. Such delays would not only push up the project costs but also deny the people the benefits when they needed them. Therefore the Chief Minister urged to fix time limit for completion of such projects. He advised the Collectors to study their progress every fortnight with the officials concerned.

The Chief Minister made it clear that similar exercises should be conducted with regard to supply of foodgrains and other essential items through Public Distribution System. Steps should also be taken to ensure that there are no irregularities or corruption in the Public Distribution System and also to weed out bogus ration cards.-

The Chief Minister castigated the district administrations for their failure to maintain proper basic statistics. He pointed out that though the Government had in February announced free supply of five kilo rice on Tamil New Year's day there had been confusion in some districts, because proper statistics had not been furnished by them.

It was highly regrettable that district administrations were not able to furnish even the basic statistical data. In future, it should be ensured that all records and data were maintained properly.

With regard to the law and order the Chief Minister asked the Collectors and Superintendents of Police to take firm and early steps to prevent communal violence from raising its head in the State. High priority should also be given for tackling the illicit arrack menace.

The Chief Minister listed the various schemes announced by the Government recently and said that there should be an attitudinal change in the district administration. He felt that the new Government expected the benefits of the various schemes and projects reaching the targetted public "even before the ink on the orders passed dries". The Administration on the whole, must run efficiently. He pointed out that he had received complaints that often officials like Tahsildars were not present in their respective headquarters. He asked the Collectors to take suitable action to prevent this.

Steps taken by the Tamilnadu Government to fight Drought.

Chief Minister's announcement:

THE Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, announced at the end of the two day Conference of District Collectors, a sum of Rs. 15 crore additional outlay for drought relief works. The State has already started the relief work, particularly employment generation, without waiting for Central grants. The Chief Minister disclosed that Rs.23 crore had already been allocated for drought relief work.

Deep Borewells:

While awaiting the Centre's grants, the State Government is not keeping the relief works pending. Top priority is being given to the programme "to have deep borewells in the affected areas". The Chief Minister said that the Chief Secretary to Government would call for the tenderers TWAD, ENCOFED and Private rig owners - to finalise the contracts for deep borewells.

The Chief Minister proposed to survey the drought-hit districts after the Assembly session. A report on the drought would be prepared by the District Collectors, and the Governmentwould forward the overall picture to the Centre. The Collectors should take up the relief work in a "Spirit of competition".

Committee on Public Distribution System:

A highlevel committee headed by the Chief Minister's Adviser, Thiru S.Guhan and others-the Revenue, and Food Secretaries, the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Co-operatives Registrar, would go into the working of the Family Card System in fair price shops and submit a report to the Government for improvements based on the Collectors' views by 1st May 1989.

Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police at Secretariat on 15th April 1989.

Special drive to detect bogus ration Cards had been strengthened, but the Collectors had been asked to ensure that genuine cardholders did not suffer as a result.

Rice in Polythene Packets:

Another proposal under consideration of the Government was to supply rice in Ploythene Packets under the Public Distribution System, and at the same time the older system would continue. The additional cost of the packet would be borne by the consumer. To check malpractices new vigilance committees for the Public Distribution System for the shops were being constituted. If the committee members themselves indulged in any irregularities, they would have to face action and removal.

On the Tamil New Year's Day, 120 convicts who had completed their 14-year sentences were released on the basis of the policy announced in the budget.

Check on Communal Clashes:

Police Chiefs from the districts had been instructed to keep a vigil and check on communal and group clashes. Policeman helping bootleggers would also be strictly dealt with and awarded stringent punishment. The Police should ensure total removal of illicit distillation and sale.

The top police officials, who participated in the conference had highlighted the need for welfare schemes for policemen. The Government would bear this in mind while preparing the demand for grants for the Home Department.

Actors for Family Planning:

To give a boost to the family planning and small savings, the Tamil Nadu Films Division, and the State Information Department would utilise the services of good actors. Play, folk dances and films would be presented.

The Collectors had also been instructed to monitor the implementation of the Rs.4 crore Adi-Dravidar concrete Housing Scheme to avoid any lacunae.

10 GOVT UNDERTAKINGS AND THE POST OF 30 STATE ARTISTS ABOLISHED

The Tamil Nadu Government on 3rd March abolished about 10 State owned undertakings, agencies and posts which were considered "not required". The posts of 30 State artists have also been abolished.

The following are the abolished posts/agencies. 1) The Tamil Nadu Tube Well Corporation, 2) High-Level Committee for Agriculturists. 3) Tamil Nadu Chit Corporation Spcial Representative of the Government in Delhi (formerly occupied by a non-official with Cabinet rank). 4) Tamil Nadu Good's Corporation. 5) Tamil Nadu Sidda Board, 6) One-Man High Level Committee for Tamil Development. 7) Tamil Nadu Meat Corporation (Whose activities are merged with the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation) 8) Director of Traditional Arts, 9) Director of Tirukkural Propaganda Centre and 10) the Poet Laureate.

The functions of these posts and organisations would hereafter be looked into by the concerned Government Departments.

The Government carefully reviewed the functioning of various State Corporations, undertakings, agencies, committees and posts, mostly headed/held by non-officials with a view to making them accountable to the Government and reduce overhead expenses. Consequently some of these posts and undertakings were being abolished and some merged.

The Government decided that all functioning undertakings and Corporations be headed by officials and accordingly they were being appointed either on part-time or full-time basis, considering the size of the organisation and the magnitude of its operations.

The following agencies would however continue to function under non-officials: 1) Iyal Isai Nataka Manram, 2) Music Colleges in the State and 3) the post of Vice-Chairman of the Small Savings Advisory Board.

ADVISORY PANEL TO STUDY TEMPLE'S ADMINISTRATION

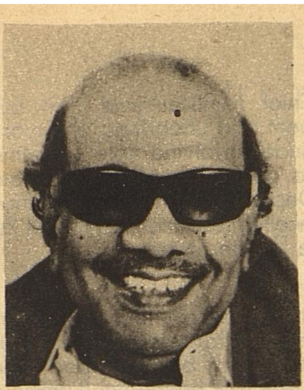
The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi convened a conference of religious heads and savents on 10th March 1989 to discuss matters relating to the Temple Administration in TamilNadu and its future Set-up.

The conference was attended by religious leaders or their representatives and mutts heads. The participants gave their valuable suggestions regarding the future set-up of the Hindu Religious Institutions.

The Chief Minister, announced the constitution of a five-member committee to advise the Government on measures to better the administration of Hindu Temples, Protect Temple properties and improve their financial resources.

The panel has been asked to submit its report to the Government within three months. Based on the recommendations of the experts Committee the Government would take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar, Thiru N. Krishnaswami Reddiar, former Judge of the Madras High Court, Thiru Thirumalai Iyengar of Srirangam, Thiru Senthilnathan of Kanchi Matt and Tmt. Radha Thiagarajan, will be the members of the advisory panel. The HR & CE Department Secretary will be the convenor.



GOVERNMENT STEADFAST IN ITS COMMITMENTS

CHIEF MINISTER'S REPLY TO THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET.

More Powers for States:

On 3rd April 1989 the Chief Minister, Dr. M. Karunanidhi in his reply to the debate on the Budget said that his Govern ment was steadfast in its commit ment to securing rights of the states to ensure ge-nuine state autonomy.

The Chief Minister said that during the Governor's regime the actual Plan size came down from Rs.1430 crore to Rs. 1202 crore. As a result of this some schemes were given up during the Governor's regime itself.

The Chief Minister said the Government, like several state Government including Congress (I) ruled States was demanding more powers for the States. Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had emphasised that States should have more powers.

Planning Commission reconstituted.

The Tamil Nadu Government has revamped and revitalised the State Planning Commission by including noted agricultural scientist Thiru M.S. Swaminathan and an eminent economist Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah.

The other members included in this panel are Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Dr. Ramani Sivaraman, former Director of Medical Education and Thiru G. Chidambaram formerly Director of Evaluation and Applied Research and Thiru M. Sivagnanam, a retired IAS officer.

The Planning Commission, under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister would immediately start working on formulation of the State's Eighth Plan for 1990-95.

Irrigation panel:

The Chief Minister also announced a committee for development of irrigation facilities. Former PWD Secretary Thiru R. Thirumalai would be the chairman of the committee and the members are former Chief Engineers.

Cheif Engineers Thiru S.P. Namasivayam, Thiru Mohanakrishnan, Thiru S. Panchanathan and Thiru S. Nageswaran and Thiru V. Rajagopalan, former Vice-Chancellor of the Agriculture Unviersity, Coimbatore.

In this connection, he mentioned the deficit of Rs. 219 crore in the budget, including Rs. 154 crore during the period of President's rule. It was the Centre's responsibility to help the State regarding the deficit during that period, he said, adding, "we will continue to press the Centre for help".

Promises being Fulfilled:

The Chief Minister said that his two-month old government had fulfilled a number of poll promises and cited the decision to revive the Legislative Council, provide 30 per cent reservation for women in jobs and increase the age limit for entry into government jobs to 30.

This Government has announced complete exemption from sales tax for fountain pen ink.

This Government would also construct a memorial for late Kannadasan at Karaikudi.

Eggs with the Noon Meals:

The Chief Minister, during his reply also announced that Eggs will be served to children once in fortnight along with their Noon Meals. Following this announcement of inclusion of eggs in the nutritious meals programmes for school children the government has decided to drop the two per cent tax on poultry feeds.

Reservation subject to review:

The Chief Minister said, that the new reservation policy of the Tamil Nadu Government is subject to review and any modifications considered to be necessary will be incorporated after evaluating its efficacy.

Pointing out that the reservation for backward classes recently announced by his government had received acclaim from several quarters, he said if anyone tried to create a wedge between the government and the Vanniars, they would be disappointed "If anyone tries to pull down the government on the reservation issue, it will end in failure.

The family income limit for educational concessions to backward class students, increased from Rs. 5,000 a year to Rs. 12,000 in the budget, would be further increased to Rs. 15,000.

The Chief Minister said several leading personalities in the Vanniya Community, like Thiru Sattanathan, Dr. Ambasankar, Thiru Vanniya Adigal and Thiru Manickvel Naicker had hailed the government proposal. The Chief Minister also said that the DMK party has 24 MLA's beloning to the Vanniya Community and therefore he said "No one can turn Vanniya Community against us." Our party is basically a social movement and economics and politics came only after its social commitment."

District Collector's Conference:

The Chief Minister said the State had earlier asked the Centre Rs. 25 crore towards drought relief, and the meeting of District Collectors and police officials to be held on 15 and 16 April would decide whether a further sum was needed.

Minimum wages for farm workers increased:

The Tamil Nadu government announced an increase ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 14 in the minimum wages for various categories of agricultural workers in the State.

The Chief Minister said that the increase followed the government's acceptance in toto of the recommendations of a committee set up to go into the minimum wages of agricultural labourers.

Those engaged in paddy cultivation and allied operations would get Rs. 16 a day as against Rs. 11 now while those engaged in cultivation of other agricultural proudces would get minimum wages ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 against 8 now.

Those coming under "other categories of agricultural labourers" whose minimum wages had ranged from Rs. 11 to and Rs. 18 a day, would now get wages ranging from Rs. 16 and Rs. 32.

Farm hands now being paid a monthly wage of Rs. 210 would henceforth get Rs. 375.

The Chief Minister also announced certain concessions in sales tax and

Motor Vehicles Tax proposed in the budget.

Salary limit raised:

He also enhanced the salary limit for backward classes and Adi Dravidars for educational benefits from Rs. 5,000 to 12,000 and for Scheduled Tribes from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000.

MV tax cut:

The Chief Minister also announced reduction in Motor Vehicle Tax proposed for vans. As against Rs. 150 per seat per quarter for 12-seater van announced in the budget the van owners would be levied a consolidated Rs. 1,000 per quarter.

Referring to the demands for reduction of five per cent tax on hotels with a turnover of Rs. 10 lakhs per year, he said that the government also proposed to levy compounding tax. A Decision would be taken shortly.

Civic elections postponed:

The Chief Minister announced that the elections to the three Corporations of Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore were being postponed to June-July instead of in May. This was to ensure that the 18-year olds also were given franchise in these elections.

The Chief Minister said that this Government had unearthed one more land scandal involving sale of prime land to a private party by the State Tourism Department. The sale had since been cancelled resulting in saving of Rs. 7.5 crore for the State.

The policy of the previous government regarding nationalisation of bus transport would be scrapped and reversed. This was because the previous government policy was basically the opposite of progressive nationalisation of the transport industry and also its very negation.

"ROAD SAFETY WEEK"

Safety education campaigns for drivers of different vehicles, seminars, a debate and a number of other activities to discuss problems relating to road safety were conducted during the 'Road Safety Week", observed in the State from 20th March to 26th March 1989.

Minister for Transport Thiru M. Kannappan presided over the function on 20th March 1989. The safety education compaigns were conducted by voluntary organisations for drivers of autorickshaws, taxis and lorries. Eye testing and blood examination of the drivers were done. A week-long exhibition was organised by the Automobile Association of South India (AASI) at its office.

Auto emission clinics to check emission in automobiles were organised in certain service stations with the help of IOC and other oil companies.

The Transport Department and the Police Department enforced rules of the road strictly. Special campaigns to paste reflecting stickers and bull's eyes were undertaken. Banners and pamphlets were used to spread the message of road safety.

The Transport Minister, said driving licences should be given only to fully qualified people and that too after verifying their physical fitness, particularly in terms of eye sight and hearing.

He said that many people got licenses even without sitting at the wheel. Further many driving schools claimed that they could give full training within 10 to 15 days. All this should change.

The Minister said the term 'Life Saving Week' would be more appropriate and added that it should be observed in the districts also.

He said the number of accidents and deaths in Madras had come down significantly in 1988, when compared to 1987.

Thiru S.Sivasubramanian, Trans port Secretary, said the Transport corporations in Tamil Nadu were taking measures to ensure greater safety on the road.

Thiru R.Nagarajan, IAS., Home Secretary to the Tamil Nadu Government spoke on the occasion. He urged various Government departments to be strict in the implementation of traffic rules and regulations.

In the course of his speech, while emphasizing the importance of safe driving, he said that one should consider the need for improving the road conditions also.

Thiru P.Dorai IPS the Madras City Police Commissioner, said cases booked for overspeeding, rash driving, bad overtakes and footboard travel had increased. This was mainly because of better enforcement of the rules and regulations. The situation could be much better if atleast a part of the amout collected as motor vehicle tax was diverted for betterment of the roads.

Representatives of the Automobile Association of South India, United India Insurance Company, Indian Medical Association, and Save A Life Club, spoke on the occasion. They called for cooperation from all sections of society to prevent accidents and to render quick medical assistance, in case of emergency.

Thiru M. B.Pranesh, the Transport Commissioner, welcomed the gathering.

Thiru L.RanjitSingh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), proposed a vote of thanks.

Tamil Nadu Budget-
Views of Press
and Associations

The TamilNaduChamber of Commerce and Industry, in a statement, welcomed the State Budget, because among other things it was actually designed to help the poorer sections of the society.

Welfare Fund for Traders Welcomed.

The proposals for total withdrawal of sales tax on agricultural pumpsets and for creation of a Traders Welfare Fund in the budget presented by the Chief Minister, have been welcomed by the Chambers of Commerce.

Thiru Ashok Kumbhat, President of the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce, congratulated the Chief Minister for his plan to set up the Traders Welfare Fund and for "Keeping in tact the package of concessions announced during the President's rule". He however felt that the continuance of the turnover tax and its enhancement to two percent for dealers whose turnover was more than Rs.1 crore would adversely affect the trading community.

Thiru K.R.Motilal, Chairman, All India Manufacturers Organisation, (Tamil Nadu State Board) said that the withdrawal of sales tax on agricultural pumpsets was a welcome measure.

Thiru S.Ram, Chairman of the Confederation of Engineering Industry, said the budget showed concern for Industrial development and the increase of investments in the Electricity sector and roads would improve the industrial infrastructure of the State.

In addition, the proposed World Bank-funded scheme for urban area improvement indicated a good support for existing industrial centres. The investments in industrial growth centres would give a fillip to new industries starting up.

The CEI also welcomed the total withdrawal of Sales Tax on agricultural pumpsets. This would help the pump industry in the State, mainly in Coimbatore, Thiru Ram said.

CEI envisaged a substantial part of the increased 31% outlay on the power sector to go towards improving the transmission and distribution of power to the existing connections and thereby improving the quality of power supply to industry. The statement that the Government was taking steps to overcome problems and expedite North Madras Power Project was welcome and CEI hoped that it would be possible to start work on this in the current year, he said

Thiru Syed Abdul Gaffoor, President, National Chamber of Commerce said the budget did not hit the common man very hard.

The Rubber Play Manufacturers Associations congratulated Chief Minister for exempting rubber playballs from Sales Tax, by classifying them as sports goods.

The Tamil Nadu Government Employees Union has welcomed the Chief Minister's budget announcement saying that its long-pending demand of pay parity with employees of the Union Government would be fulfilled before May this year.

In a press release Thiru P. S. Soundarapandian, General Secretary of the Union,has expressed appreciation for the proposal.

The Chief Minister had said that the report of the Fifth Pay Commission constituted during the President rule would be examined and the Government decision in tune with the fulfilment of the demands of the Government employees and teachers would be announced before the end of 1989. The Government decision would be given retrospective effect from June 1st 1988.

"Poll promises fulfilled"

"The Chief Minister Karunanidhi, on Saturday, announced a number of welfare measures in the Budget for 1989-90 in fulfilment of the promises made in the DMK Election manifesto."

The "Hindu"
27.3.1989

"A Welfare Budget"

"When does a populist Budget become a welfare Budget?"

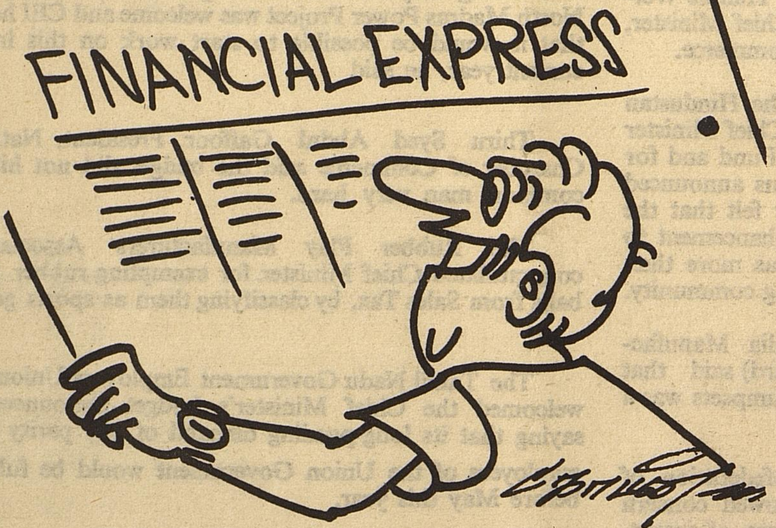
"When it is presented by an Opposition Government."

"News times" 28.3.1989

"Tamilnadus Rosy Dreams"

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Thiru M. Karunanidhi, has struck a balance between discretion and valour in producing additional resource mobilisation to the tune of Rs. 50 crores in the coming year. Moreover, the Budget has something to offer to almost everybody. For the industrialist, there is promise of stepped up outlay on power as well as three new growth centres. For the agriculturist, there is a whole new package of drought relief and debt relief. For the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Most Backward Communities as well as women and the unemployed, the Budget spells out special schemes to implement the DMK's poll assurances.

(Economic Times)
29.3.89



"The Chief Minister Karunanidhi was able to make a self-landing with his Budget for 1989-90. The flight has been made smooth by the readiness, though belatedly, to off-load cargo in the shape of certain financial Plan targets. All said and done, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio has done well in managing the pressure-cooker of State finances to provide for a wide range of reliefs and funds for enlarged scale of welfare measures."

29.3.1989

"Welfare oriented Budget"

"The Tamilnadu Government was faced with three problems - a precarious financial position, an urgency for encouraging an improvement in the development exercise and a need to redeem the Election promises. It should be said to the credit of the DMK Government that its Budget for 1989-90 is charted specifically to tackle these three issues to a creditable extent."

"News Today' 89 27.3.1989-

The DMK Government has not yet passed through the "grace period of one hundred days. The provision of Rs.173.8 crores for the Nutritious Meal Programme with the intention that it will benefit 85 lakh children is in accordance with the electoral commitment.

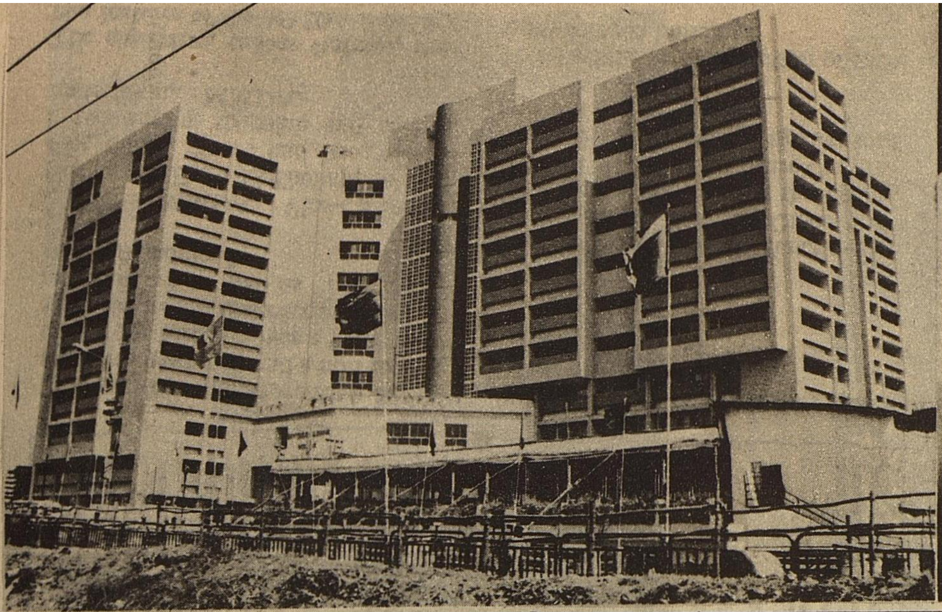
In fact, wide range of welfare measures included in the budget - marriage grants for girls from poor families, maternity relief for women from such families, free supply of 5 Kg. of rice on three festival days to an astronomical 50 lakh house holds at a cost of Rs.14 crores, the free dhoti-saree scheme costing Rs.27 crores - seem to belong to the well-known category of populist measures with a spin-off going beyond and away from the targeted beneficiaries. In the field of employment, a new scheme has been announced for enlisting 25,000 rural youth for a variety of village level activities such as adult literacy, maintenance of drinking water facilities and small savings.

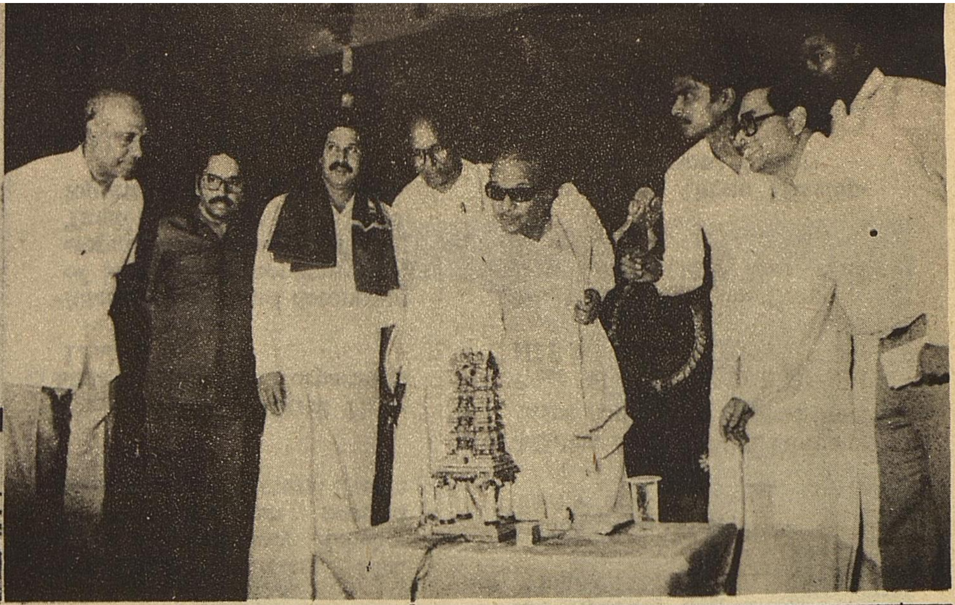
The Hindu-Editorial - dated 27th March 1989.

The welfare aspect of the Budget is really its satisfying hallmark. All the election promises in this area are to be credibly fulfilled. This is clear from the proposals for supplying 5 kilos of rice free to all poor house holds on Tamil New Year Day gifting to them one saree and one dhoti to each, removing the ceiling on applications for old age pensions to be considered each year besides raising the amount per head by Rs.15 to Rs.50 permonth, granting of Rs.2,000 on death of bread winner in poor households and providing accident benefit of Rs.10,000 without income ceiling. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities can study free upto B.A., B.Sc., B.Com levels, an intelligent way of upgrading capabilities and competitive ability. Some provision is available for converting cycle rickshaws into motorised ones on the basis of subsidised low interest loans from Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation. Nutritious Meal Pro-gramme gets Rs.173.8 crore with special emphasis on facilities for supervision to prevent malpractices.

The budget has thus striven to live up to the welfare goals. There is a sedulous attempt in evidence to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes would reach those for whom they are intended.

Editorial, News Today, dated 27th March, 1989.





M·M·D·A· OFFICE COMPLEX—

THALAMUTHU-NATARAJAN BUILDING INAUGURATED

The Chief Minister Dr. M.Karunanidhi while inaugurating the MMDA Office Complex said that the Government will expedite the implementation of the Teluga Ganga Project. This was to ensure that Krishna water will be brought to the City in two to three years. The Chief Minister added that he would hold talks with the Andhra Pradesh Chief-Minister Thiru N.T.RamaRao to hasten the Telugu-Ganga Project. The Chief Minister said "we will not drop the Telugu-Ganga, the way the Veeranam scheme was dropped by the previous Government." The Telugu-Ganga Project was not implemented on schedule by the previous Government. The Chief Minister made the above remarks when he inaugurated the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority's new Rs.15.7 crore office complex on Gandhi-Irwin road, Madras. He said that the Government would also continue to take steps to ensure speedy implementation of the mass transit system (MRTS) project. Though the matter was taken up personally twice with the ministers concerned in Delhi, and inspite of the repeated requests of the Government, only meagre funds were alloted for the above project. The Chief Minister handed over silver keys to the allotees of the MMDA building and presented mementoes to those who were involved in the construction of this building.

The Handloom and Urban Development Minister Thiru S.Thangavelu presided over the function. He said that this 12-storeyed building, was the first one in the state to be equipped with an automatic sprinkler and fire extinguishing system, having a floor area of 28,000 square metres, fully airconditioned, with eight lifts and a 750 KW generator. A computer based system ensured that the building regulated the supply of all the systems in the building, apart from protecting it against fire. The MMDA secured the land free from the Education Department in 1983 and the State construction corporation started the work in 1986. The Chief Minister said that the Government would, construct a school and a teachers training institute at a cost of Rs.80 lakh in the land available in the premises. About Rs.84 lakh would also be spent for constructing 62 tenements there.

The Food Minister Thiru Arcot Veerasamy, The Health Minister Thiru Ponmudi, Egmore MLA Parithi Elamvazhuthi, The Chief Secretary Thiru M.M.Rajendran, I.A.S and Thiru A.Kalanidhi M.P., participated in the function.

The MMDA Chief Engineer Thiru S.Kumaresan presented the technical report. He said that the building was 48.71 metres tall, had a car park capable of accommodating over 220 vehicles and would house

CHIEF MINISTER'S VIEWS ON KOODANGULAM PLANT

THE Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi while talking to pressmen at Madurai said that he had never opposed the proposed Koodangulam Atomic Power Plant. In fact he evinced keen interest in setting up of this plant.

The Chief Minister discussed the issue with experts during his visit to Delhi. The Centre and the State should jointly set up a committee of experts to discuss whether the plant could be set up without in any way affecting the eco system or the health of people. The Chief Minister was of the opinion that Tamil Nadu's Power shortage would be over if the plant was set up at Koodangulam.

2500 employees. More than 52,000 technical workmen and a non-technical labour force of over a lakh were involved in its construction. It had a fire escape as well as "refuge and rescue balconies."

The MMDA Vice-Chairman (incharge) Thiru C.Chellappan said that the 12 floors had been distributed among six state and central undertaking - MMDA.

The objectives, salient features, special features of the MMDA Buildings and details of Allottees are given below:

OBJECTIVES:

To construct a modern, functionally efficient, multi-storeyed Office building for accommodating the Offices of MMDA and a few other Governmental/Public Sector Organisations on a self financing basis.

To set a trend in construction of such multi-soreyed buildings.

SALIENT FEATURES:

Ground Plus eleven storeyed structure with a total floor area of approximately 28000 sq.m.

Comprises two 'U' shaped wings of Office spaces connected by a central core, which houses a battery of 8 lifts, lobby and staircase.

The Office areas are fully air-conditioned.

Stand by power Generators which will also supplement power cuts. Permanent and long lasting finishes are provided for the exterior and central lobbies for reducing maintenance.

-The cost of the project is Rs. 15.7 crores.

-Ample car parking space and landscaped surroundings.

-Consulting Architects: M/s. Dhalla Kuppusamy Rebello, whose design was selected through an architectural Design Competition.

-Construction by Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Limited.

-Interior design and decoration of Madras Metropolitan Development Authority floors; Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The Building is provided with a most efficient fire protection system with following features:

-Automatic Sprinkler system.

-Smoke detection and alarm system.

-Fire sumps, Hydrants and Yard Hydrants.

-Fire escape stair cases at two ends of building.

-Refuge and rescue balconies at different levels.

-Avoidance of spreading of fire between floors through air-conditioning ducts.

-In-House fire squad.

-Monitoring and control of the functioning of the various systems through a micro processor.

ALLOTEES OF FLOOR SPACE:

TamilNadu Industrial Co-operative Bank: Groundfloor East Wing.

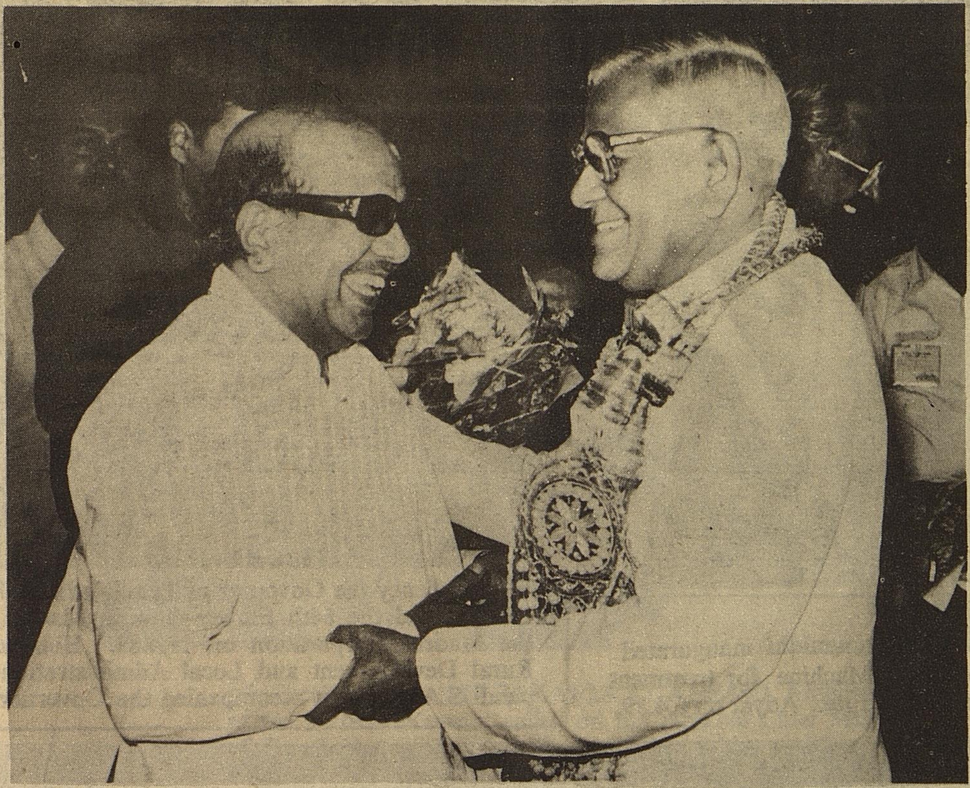
Indian Bank: Ground floor East Wing.

Madras Metropolitan Development Authority: Ground floor West Wing I floor II floor and III floor East wing.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited: III floor West Wing IV floor.

Housing and Urban Development Corporation: V floor.

Oil and Natural Gas Commission: VI to XI floors.



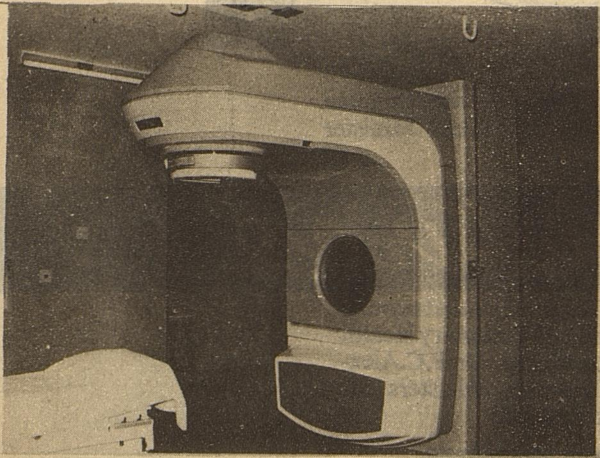
His Excellency the President of India Thiru R.Venkataraman was received at Madras Airport by Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.M.Karunanidhi on 14.4.'89.

news in pictures

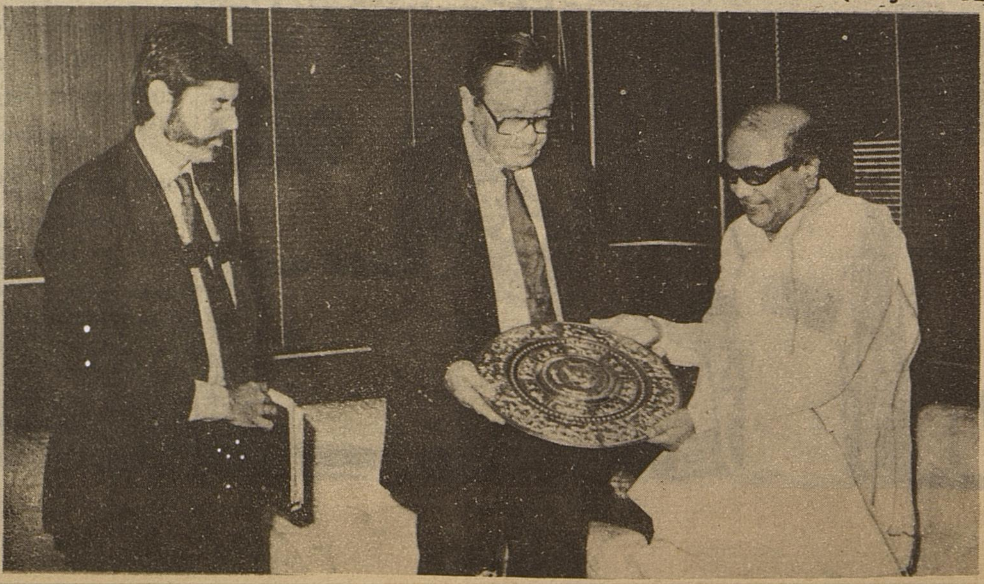
His Excellency the President of India Thiru R.Venkataraman inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Voluntary Health Services on 6.4.89 at Madras. His Excellency Dr.P.C.Alexander, Governor of Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble Ministers for Health and Adi-Dravidar Welfare participated.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the High Energy X-ray Machine for treatment of Cancer, at Cancer Institute. Adyar on 6.4.89.

His Excellency the Governor of TamilNadu Dr.P.C.Alexander, going round the 64th Flower-show in Madras, organised by the Madras Corporation on 11.4.89. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru Veerapandi S.Arumugam accompanied the Governor.



His Excellency Dr.John R.Hubbard, U. S. Ambassador to India called on Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.Karunanidhi on 5.4.89 at his Chamber at Secretariat, Madras. Thiru Thomas M.F.Timberman, Consul General, Madras is also present. Hon'ble Chief Minister presented a memento (Tanjavur Art Plate).



His Excellency, Mr.ALI ZAKARIA AL ANSARI, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi at his residence on 4.4.89.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr.M.Karunanidhi, unveiled the statue of Dr.A.L.Mudaliar, at Madras Medical College on 7.4.89. Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru Arcot N. Veerasamy, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Thiru Durai Murugan and Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. Ponmudi participated in the function.

Rs.100 CRORE PLAN TO IMPROVE MADRAS CITY

Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Local Administration Minister said on 18th March 89, that a sum of Rs.100 crore would be spent to draw up plans for improvement of Madras during the next five years. This was to fulfil the promise made by the new Government in its election manifesto.

While switching on sodium vapour lamps at Velachery Road, the Minister said that the Tamil Nadu Government had sought the Finance Commission to allot Rs.50 crore to the Madras Corporation for improving slums. He said about Rs.20 crore would be spent by the Madras Corporation to instal more street lights and replace the old underground cables. He called upon the public to help curb theft and damaging street lights.

The Minister said 4000 new sodium vapour lamps and 6000 flouroscent lamps would be installed this year.

Sodium vapour lamps would be installed in 14 roads by next month. Highways Department would instal sodium vapour street light on double brackets in the median from Kathipara to Padi at a cost of Rs.57 lakh.

SURPRISE CHECKS BY Minister for Rural Development and LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru Veerapandi S.Arumugam made surprise checks in many parts of the Madras city on 21st March 1989 nearly 4 Hours. Thiru T.R.Balu, M.P., Thiruvalargal SA.Ganesan, S.R.Sridhar and Sengai Sivam, M.L.A.'s, the Corporation Commissioner and other Circle Officers of the Corporation accompanied the minister.

The Minister inspected the cremation ground at Kannammapet and suggested to build a 120 feet all Chimney so that the neighbouring huts adjoining the Compound Walls would not be affected.

Afterwards the Minister at Ashok Nagar IVth Main Road, inspected the cleaning of water tanks by Corporation Worker. He also inspected Kamaraj Colony and Bhoopathi Nagar slum areas there and ordered the Corporation Officials to lay roads in that area. At Trustpuram the Minister ordered the Corporation officials to desilt the Storm Water drain at once so that the stagnant sewer water could be relieved. The Minister inspected the Plant nursery at Kodambakkam High Road and saidthat a Compound Wall should be built around it. He then went to Corporation Middle school, Gangapuram and saw the midday meals prepared at noon meals shed.

At Aminjikarai the Hon'ble Minister asked Corporation Officials to take immediate action to execute the 22 lakhs estimated bridge across Cooum connecting Aminjikarai and Metha Nagar. He then inspected the sewer treatment plant at Koyambedu. He said that the sewer water should be treated well before it is let into Cooum. The Minister then visited Thiruvalluvarpuram slum at Ayanavaram. It is an unsewered area. Metro water and Sewerage Board Officials explained the Minister about the Proposals made for laying under ground sewers in that area. The minister asked Corporation Officials to lay gravel roads immediately in that area.

The Minister inspected Vasanta Garden, Maduma Nagar and went to Ambedkar College, Vyasarpady, where the low lying areas are filled with building rubbish by the Corporation. He said that after filling, the area should be levelled. The Minister then went to Radhakrishnan Nagar and inspected the area.

Municipal Chairman to head tax appeals panel

Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration has said that in Madurai on 6th March '89 that the TamilNadu Government has decided to empower a five-member committe for each municipality headed by the respective municipality's chairman to take decisions on appeals regarding property Tax.

He also said that the existing Local Bodies Act would be amended in the budget session and certain norms would be fixed for the guidance of the committee for tax revision.

The property taxes had not been revised for the past 15 years, eventhough revision Officers had been appointed two years back. This resulted in weakening of the finance position of the Municipalities. The tax payers were asked to appeal to a committee if they felt that the revision was not justified.

The committee, did not meet at all and some people took the matter to the court. The taxes could not be collected. The Minister said that the Government has decided to set up separate financial corporations for municipalities, municipal corporation and panchayats. These corporations would raise funds for the development of the local bodies.

The Minister said that severe action would be taken against town planning officials if they delayed the approval of layouts for new constructions beyond one month.

Borewells for Madurai city.

The Minister said that the Government had sanctioned a sum of Rs.45 lakhs for sinking 120 borewells in Madurai city for augmenting the water supply. All the 120 borewells would be completed before 15th March 1989.

Besides, a sum of Rs.25 lakhs had been sanctioned for distribution of water through lorries.

A Rs.One crore project for putting up two more permanent bunds across the Vaigai river for storing more water for drinking water supply was also under the active consideration of the Government. The bunds would not affect in any way irrigation water for the farmers.

The National Conference of Voluntary Agencies

The National Conference of Voluntary agencies, was inaugurated by the Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam on 17th March 1989 in Madras. This conference was jointly organised by the Council for Advancement of people's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary implementation Committee, New Delhi. The Minister, while inaugurating the above conference, said that the schemes like rural sanitation, environment, Child care and nutrition may be taken up by the Voluntary agencies in order to promote rural development and if these economic programmes werefound to be successful, the Government could come forward and take up such programmes in a planned manner, on a wider scale to achieve speedy social justice.

Speech of the Minister for Information and Labour Thiru Pon-Muthuramalingam at the valedictory function:—

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Thiru Janardhan Poojari,

Thiru Patankar, Delegates from other States, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have great pleasure in participating in the valedictory session of the two day Seminar organised by the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology and Nehru Centenary Celebrations Committee in collaboration with the State Government.

I hope that the deliberations of the Seminar during the last two days might have made a break-through in finding new areas for the involvement and participation of the voluntary organisations and also for funding the various programmes.

Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice, an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people, an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony".

We have been trying to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi into reality through implementation of various programmes. In all our efforts for enriching the life of the people in rural and urban areas, we have paid careful and adequate attention not only to the physical and financial outlay but also the components of the programmes and the beneficiaries who enjoy the fruits of the programmes.

In a vast country like ours, we are facing various problems like poverty, ignorance, caste discrimination, disparity in income, disparity in development among various regions. Yet, we have made much head way in realising the objects of our planned endeavour. It seems to me that it is all due to the participation of the people at various levels. We made a spectacular progress in implementing the community De-

NEHRU CENTENARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MADRAS

velopment and National Extension Service Schemes. The public enthusiasm and participating spirit which we witnessed during the sixties gradually decreased. A new approach and strategy have been adopted through the experience of People's Action for Development of India (PADI) started in Maharashtra and later by the Council for the Advancement of people's Action and Rural Technology.

I feel that, in India, the progress in the recent years in combating rural poverty and raising the living standard of the rural areas has been attributed, amongst others, to the dedicated work of many non-Governmental Organisation. Many Non-Governmental Organisations tend to adopt a holistic approach to rural development.

The Voluntary agencies have a wider role to play. They have more areas for operation. Most of the voluntary agencies as they are today, are urban-oriented and their resources are dissipated in routine programmes. It is hightime that the Non-Governmental Organisations reach out for the benefit of the poor in rural sector, and they design appropriate technology and strategy to generate awareness among the villagers and help them to become economically self-reliant and self-supporting.

I understand that over the last few years, a number of dedicated Non-Governmental Organisations have demonstrated that, given the right orientation and educational aids, they can motivate community members to improve their sanitary practices. Prompted by the good rapport and confidence established with the communities, mainly women and their desire to transform the rural life style, these NGO's have introduced and implemented sanitation activities with encouraging results.

Many Non-Governmental Organisations are capable of reaching out to the community and enlisting their participation. For example, Ramakrishna Mission of West Bengal is making very effective use of the network of youth clubs to educate and motivate village communities. The close interaction of social workers with the community as shown by the approach used by Women's Coordinating Council in Calcutta and Asha Sadan in Delhi have indicated that ingrained habits can be changed for the better in a relatively short time.

I am referring to this programme to illustrate how a non-governmental organisation can motivate, educate and involve the people for people's advancement.

I am sure that this Seminar has made an indepth study of the role of Voluntary agencies in national development and the recommendations made by it will throw more areas to Voluntary agencies for active work and service. The Voluntary agencies are the social animaters who can help the Government to remove the deficiencies in various laws like land reform acts and to bring about transformations in rural areas. The idea of removal of middlemen in implementing anti-poverty programmes is receiving careful attention of the Government of India and the State Government.

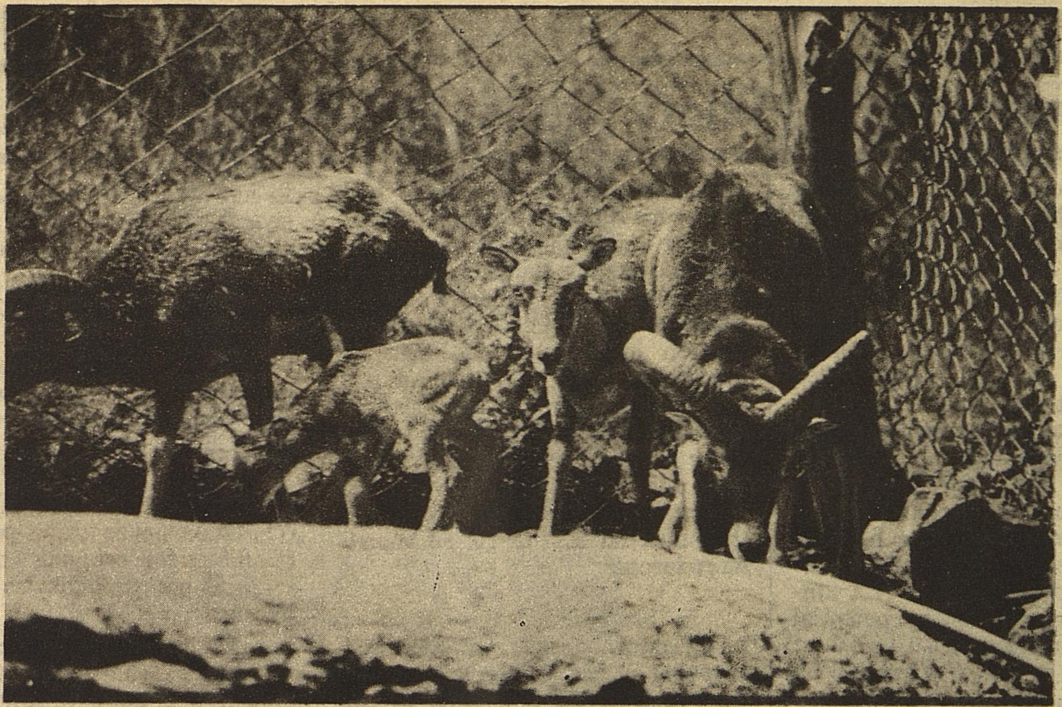
Before I conclude, I want to recollect the words of our mentor, Perarignar Anna. In his appeal to his brothers, Anna said;

Go to the people.
Live among them:
Learn from them,
Love them,
Serve them,
Plan with them,
Start with what they know
Build on what they have.

The recent announcements made by our respected Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar have strenthened the democratic institutions namely, the Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. With the technical assistance available with them, the voluntary organisations can spread out into far-flung areas, and improve the living standard of the villagers and Tribal population.

I hope and trust that the delegates will return to their respective stations, with new enthusiasm and, understanding for a wider role. I once again thank the organisers of this Seminar, for giving me this opportunity to share a few thoughts with you.

Thank you.



Rare Species of Animals in the Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur

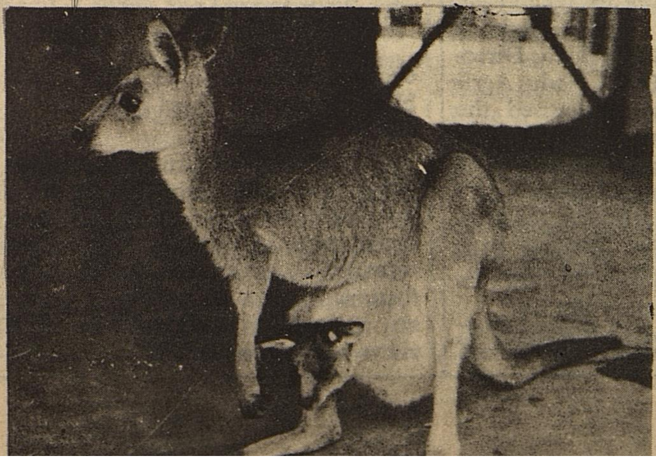
MOUFLON

(European Mountain Sheep)

Mouflon is a mountain sheep. They live in many parts of Europe. This is the smallest form of all wild sheeps. The male is very beautiful with a thick backwardly recurved horn. Some scientists think that all breed of domestic sheep developed from the mouflon.

Mouflons (2 males and 2 females) were received from Yogoslovakia two years back on exchange basis. They were left into a special type of mountain enclosure at this Zoological Park. Now they started breeding. One female delivered an young one on 18-2-1989. The other female is now carrying.

Anna Zoological Park is the only zoo in India in having this rare sheep variety.



GREY KANGAROO

Kangaroos are Australian animals. These animals are unique in having an abdominal pouch (marsupium). This Grey Kangaroos are one of the largest Kangaroos.

This Zoological Park received three Kangaroos (1 male and 2 female) recently (3-10-1987) from Australia at the cost of about Rs. 30,000. They now started breeding. One female has a big young one, while the other is having a small baby in its pouch. This Zoological Park is also having an another variety of small Kangaroo called Wallabys which is also breeding.

STRIPED HYENA

Striped Hyenas are widely distributed in the forests of Africa and India. They mainly feed on the left over body parts of dead animals in the forests. So they are known as the Scavengers of the Forest. By doing so they keep the forest clean. They are considered as one of the rare animals of India.

Two years back (27-7-1987) this zoo has received a pair of Hyenas from Bombay Zoo on exchange basis. They started breeding here. The first litter (2 females) were delivered a year back. Now for the same parent two pups were born on 19-2-1989. These animals are kept in a special type of open island type enclosure.

Revamping Millets Research in Tamil Nadu

Millets form a group of coarse grains capable of thriving adverse seasonal conditions. They occupy an area of 15 lakh hectares which is 21 per cent of gross cropped area in Tamil Nadu. A quantum leap in the productivity of millet crops viz., sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet and maize was witnessed in the recent years following the development of hybrids, composites and appropriate production technologies but still the average yield per hectare has not been increased substantially. The average yield is very low (1.2 tonnes/ha) compared to the potential yield of 4.5 tonnes/ha.

In order to improve the present condition, the millet scientists from all over the state attended a workshop at the main campus of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at Coimbatore on March 7th and 8th and deliberated over the future research strategies required and thrust areas to be tackled, in the coming years.

Presiding over the Workshop, Dr. S. Jayaraj, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University emphasised that millets along with tree crops is the best combination to combat the drought conditions as well to overcome the fodder shortage for animals. He called upon the scientists to promote millet production in the potential belts to match the poultry production and the Animal Nutritionists to identify nutritive fodders. "Processed food items from millets" is the mandate fixed for Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Food Scientists, enabling the millet farmers to get additional farm income.

In his opinion, the choice of millet crop, specific varieties and cropping system should be based on the rainfall pattern specific to the region. Disclosing the massive fabrication of farm machinery in the University Workshops for supply to all the Regional Research Stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Tamil Nadu, the Vice-Chancellor categorically stated that the appropriate farm implements and machinery should form the integral part of dryland technology in Tamil Nadu.

Taking econometrics to the practical ladder of predicting the probabilities of dry spell, monsoon, soil moisture, pest and disease outbreaks, yield predictions and many more farm related aspects, the computerisation of farm research data is now well within the reach of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University which has got a well equipped computer centre. Dr. Jayaraj called upon the participating scientists to develop appropriate models to be test verified in different agro-climatic conditions in the state in farmers fields through on-farm trials.

Outlining the millet scenerio of Tamil Nadu, Dr. S. Chelliah, Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University emphasised the need for intensive researches on intercropping giving region specific recommendations which inturn give additional income to the farmers. He advocated exotic breeding programmes in cholam and cumbu.

Based on the two days deliberations, the following thrust areas in millet research have been identified for implementation in different parts of Tamil Nadu :

1. Computerisation of research data available on all major millet crops, and development of prediction models for rainfall and pest and disease outbreaks. Integrated watershed management in low rainfall areas in Tamil Nadu.
2. Cataloguing of the available male sterile lines in sorghum (cholam), maize and pearl millet (Cumbu) for evolving high yielding and pest and disease resistant hybrids.
3. Evolution of sweet sorghum varieties suitable for production of industrial ethanol (alcohol).
4. Breeding drought tolerant and high yielding varieties Makkattai cholam suited to Tiruchi and Pudukottai district, Periamanjal cholam for Coimbatore and Periyar districts and Thalaivirichan cholam for North Arcot and Dharmapuri districts under rainfed conditions.
5. Pearl millet (cumbu) hybrids and varieties suitable for intercropping in groundnut.
6. Evolution of high yielding and drought tolerant minor millets like Tenai, Penivaragu, Samai and kudiraivali for the plains and hilly tribal areas.
7. Study on the performance of millets in soils irrigated with leather tannery effluents in Palar Basin in North Arcot district and ameliorative measures to mitigate the ill-effects.
8. Efficiency of bio-fertilizers in the integrated nutrient management, on the incidence of the diseases and pests of millets and ability to withstand drought.
9. Tissue culture studies to evolve better varieties to combat blast disease in Ragi and downy mildew in cumbu.

The past researches in millet crops have been thoroughly analysed by this scientists forum and new orientation to revamp the millet research strategies was given. Such forums form a basis for self analysis as well as understanding the views of scientists of all disciplines.

Change is one thing, progress is another. "Change" is scientific, "progress" is ethical.

-BERTRAND RUSSELL

The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

-ALFRED NORTH

Man's character is his fate.

-HERACLITUS

It is not the brains that matter most, but that which guides them - the character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas.

-FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKI

The French film festival

Speech of

Thiru Pon. Muthuramalingam.
Minister for Information and Labour

Your Excellency Ambassador of France in India, Thiru Koshy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India Tmt. Urmila Gupta distinguished guests and friends.

I have great pleasure in associating myself with the inauguration of the French Film Festival at Madras and I am grateful to the organisers of this festival for giving me this opportunity.

On behalf of our revered and respected Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar and Government of Tamil Nadu, I thank the Government of India and the Ambassador of France in India for having chosen Madras as the venue for organising this week-long important Festival. I hope that many of you are aware of the fact that our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar is an eminent playwright and all his film stories are based on social themes relating to social reform and renaissance. He has to his credit over 25 plays and scripts for nearly 50 films, many of which are box office hits.

When the Government of India approached him for assistance to organise this Film Festival as part of the Festival of France in India which was inaugurated by His Excellency the President of France last month in Bombay, he readily agreed to provide all assistance to organise the French Film Festival here and he requested me kindly to participate in the inaugural function. I am very glad to learn that Madras which is the seat of Culture and fine arts of India, is the first city to host the French Film Festival in India.

The peoples of France and India are peace-loving people. They have a rich cultural tradition and history. We are proud of our ancient culture, arts and crafts. Film is one of the creative arts in which the French and Indian Film makers have acquired expertise attaining international standards.

We still remember the Festival of India conducted in France two years ago and the enormous amount of support and encouragement that our programmes received in France.

The new wave films of India are very popular in France. The Exposition of Indian films in pompidou Centre in Paris attracted a beeline of French film goers. One of the films which was highly appreciated at this Exposition was "தண்ணீர் தண்ணீர்" a Tamil film depicting the travails of drought in villages and the expectations of the rural folk. Tamil films like "Nayaken" have enjoyed 'good audience' in France. The film critic Mr. Michel Ciment has been visiting India frequently and the Indian films receive his appreciation in a large measure.

France and India have been carrying the torch of world peace and they have shared various international platforms for the cause of international peace and understanding. The Indo-French relations have entered a new phase during this year with the visit of the president of France. New vistas of Co-operation are opening up in the spheres of telecommunications nuclear energy and bio-technology.

We remember and relish the visit of His Excellency the President of France, Mr. Mitterand, to inaugurate the Festival of France in India when he said that the French Festival in India was "a common meditation— a common endeavour" to raise a garden of flowers and fruits."

I am pleased to note that France is the fourth largest film producer after India, the U.S. and Japan. All predictions that the New Wave French films will meet the day of gloom have been proved false. It is said that about 140 films are made every year in France and these films have the verve and resilience, attracting large audience in foreign lands also.

I understand that the fourteen films selected for screening till 16th March in this Cinema-house are of very high quality in terms of photography, theme, acting and appeal. I hope that the film lovers and films makers of Madras City will enjoy the films, and the film Festival will further strengthen the Cultural and commercial bonds between India and France.

We conducted with success a Tamil Film Festival at Trivandrum in November, 1988 and we have plans to do so at Bangalore and Hyderabad. May be someday we shall have a similar festival of Tamil films in Paris.

Now, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this French Film Festival in Madras.

(Speech at the Inaugural function of French Film Festival in Madras on 10-3-1989)

Safeguards to Linguistic Minorities in School Education

In Tamil Nadu there are adequate facilities for linguistic Minorities. There are schools which impart education through

Telegu, Malayalam, Urdu, Kannada, Hindi, Gujarathi, languages.

These languages are taught as first language in schools where the children belonging to linguistic Minorities get education through English Medium.

Apart from the safequards provided in G.O.Ms.No. 115 Public (Defence) Department dated 29-1-65 the following facilities are provided to linguistic minorities:-

The linguistic minorities who are desirous of studying Tamil in addition to their mother tongue under Part 'A' of the language scheme may study it outside school hours and that the concerned Headmasters themselves may make necessary arrangements depending on the strength of pupils willing to study Tamil.

No Tuition fee is levied from the students studying through the medium like Telegu, Malayalam, Urdu and other minority language and no tuition fee is levied from students who studied in any of the above media at the high school and Joined English Medium consequent on the non-availability of their respective medium at the higher secondary level.

Text books in subjects like Mathematics, Science, History, Geography are printed and published in Telugu, Urdu, Malayalam and Kannada by Tamil Nadu Text Book Society.

For language text Books the books used in other States arefollowed in TamilNadu with the permission of the Government.

Provision is made for the linguistic minority candidates for the admission into Telegu medium or Malayalam or Urdu Medium in the following Government Teacher Training Institutions.

(1) One Urdu men teachertraining section attached to the Government High School for Muslim (Boys),Madras-2

(2) One Urdu Women Section attached to Government Teachers Training Institute (Women) Royapettah, Madras.

(3) One section for Telugu Men Candidates attached to Government Teachers Training Institute(Men), Dharmapuri.

(4) One section for Malayalam Teacher Training for men and women candidates attached to government High School, Villavancode.

(5) One section for Telegu Women candidates attached at Government Teachers Training Institute(Women) Krishnagiri.

Free supply of text book is provided to poor children studying in Standards I—VIII from 1985-86 under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. Linguistic minorities are also covered under this scheme.

The linguistic minority language teachers who donot want to act in the administrative post and who donot want promotions are exempted from passing Tamil Language test.

As per section 9 of Chapter II of the Tamil Nadu recognised private schools (Regulation) Act 1973, any minority be it, individual or body of persons based on language may establish and administer any school of their choice with permission.

BHARATHIDASAN the Great Poet – Dr. N. Sanjeevi.

Of the three thousand years of dynamic, delightful and developing history of Tamil literature, a unique phenomenon in the world of literature, Bharathidasan otherwise known as Pavendar meaning the king of Poets or Puratci-k-kavingar meaning the poet of revolt shines as the latest and brightest literary luminary who rightly compels the attention and appreciation, admiration and adoration of literary scholars all over the world in view of the quantity and quality of his creative writings. The beauty and boldness of his varied literary forms are considered as a fitting sequel to the outpourings of Subramania Bharathi (1882-1921) whose acquaintance Bharathidasan was fortunate to secure when the former was in a political exile in a then French settlement namely Puducherry (Pondicherry) during the second decade of this century along with Sri Aurobindo, V.V.S. Iyer and others.

Bharathidasan was born in 1891 nine years after the birth of Subramania Bharathi and nine years before the birth of twentieth century in a middle class non-brahmin family. Although he became an avowed atheist and an intellectural revolutionary his respect for his mentor who was a believer and Brahmin by birth never diminished because Bharathidasan was fully convinced of Bharathi's zeal for social equality and emancipation, progress and peace. In short, not only the pen-name 'Bharathidasan' which he retained till the end of his life, but the statements in poetry and prose he has made whenever an occasion demanded about the qualities of head and heart of Subramania Bharathi stand testimony to Bharathidasan's qualities of truthfulness and gratitude.

Bharathidasan who lived a full life of 73 years died on the 21st April, 1965 at Madras and was buried at Pondicherry where the Government of Pondicherry has raised a memorial. By profession a Tamil teacher, by conviction an ardent follower of Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy, father of the Dravidian movement that ushered in a big political and social change in South India in fifties and sixties, a journalist, a political sufferer and a politician in later years Bharathidasan has created a deeper impact on the people of Tamilnadu which is more relevant in post-Independent era.

Besides being a poet of beauty, Bharathidasan's irrefutable credentials were his fiery opposition to blind beliefs, wornout traditions, socio-economic inqualities and imposition of Hindi. His pertinent contribution to Tamil poetry is his poems which encourage widow-marriage and birth-control. And his poems in praise of Lenin and socialism shall also be relevant for ever. Some of his poems are excellent examples of universal appeal.

We may now have a few examples in English translation (though inadequate as even any excellent translation may be) to have a glimpse of the heat and light of the volcanic personality of Bharathidasan.

(Sung in the style of the pole dancer's song)

Tiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
Tiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
Ahaha salute you all
Ahaha sit all orderly please
Ye all who have begotten children
Hallo my Young brother!
Hallo my brother old!
Look here brother a skeleton!
No flesh! no strength!
Yes thiduthidum what is its name?...
What is the name of this medicine?
When touched inside your soul it will be sweet that is
that crystal-clear Tamil Yes that Crystal clear Tamil
Now I smear this medicine over this skeleton!
O! brother strike the drum
thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum thiduthidum
look the Tamil skeleton laughs!
blossomed our land that was barren and destroyed
look our fresh-green Tamil land sings!
O! mothers! O! fathers!
no magic! no manthras!
What is wanted is will
What is wanted in the search for a way
To get rid of our woes!

Lullaby song for a female child

O! casket of camphor
to spread such a sweet perfume
Overwhelming the aweful bad odour of blindbeliefs!
O! Lady of ever-burning light to dispel the darkness of unwanted caste-system!

Lullaby song for the male child

O! the hero of young and strong shoulders!
to catch and control those untamed bulls
that attempt to hit us when told
Of the evils of blind-beliefs
that causes cruelty and waste our valuable life!

On widow-marriage

When the woman dies
the widower seeks another woman
like that we shall ask
the widow to get a husband for her

Birth Control

While keeping the door for love open
We shall shut the door for conception
What harm is there
Otherwise what for is a child?
to die or to languish?

On a caste / Class free new communist society

O! the world is still in the dark dungeon!
Still the people who adhere to caste are alive!
Still are there the religious heads who threaten and curse
The world marches towards the goal
where all get all

* * * *

Let us create a new world
Where the war-lords shall be wholy uprooted

* * * *

When the poor begging-bowls
Become warriors to beat the rich
There shall be no beggers and barons
All will become equal. O! man realize this.

Up up climb! integrating country with country
Up up climb over the hills that hit the skies!
Up up climb ceaselessly!
Having climbed up look around all-over!
Look around all the people of the world all over!
Look around the thick of your human population!
Look around the army of men who were born with you!
Enjoy looking at the human sea!
Cry out that you are the human sea!

Sir. P. THEAGARAYA

The champion of the under privileged

Born on the 27th of April, 1852, five years before the Great Indian Mutiny, now called the First War of Indian Independence Sir.P.Theagaraya must have been influenced by the establishment of the University of Madras, in 1857, and it was from that University that he graduated in 1876. Thoughout his life he cared for the downtrodden and under-privileged.

As a member of the Devanga community, whose traditional occupation was weaving Sir P. Theagaraya was deeply interested in that industry and erected a large factory to provide employment for weavers. He was one of the founders of Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce and its President from its inception in 1910 for successive terms, till 1921.

Along with V.Tirumalai Pillai, Sir.P.Theagaraya recognised and developed Changalvaraya Naicker's Technical Institute. He maintained a school at Washermenpet. He evinced great interest also in higher education and did much good work as a trustee of Pachaiyappa's College and other institutions of Pachaiyappa's Charities. In 1898 he was made Fellow of Madras University.

Sir P.Theagaraya hailed the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 and attended its sessions in Madras. He figured in every important beneficial movement in Madras Province. But he was distressed at the state of large sections of the Non-Bramin community in South India. They had long been educationally backward and were gravely under represented in the Public Services and were powerless to raise their status. Unless they were given special protection they were liable to be submerged permanently. To uplift them and enable all communities share equally the benefit of education, the employment opportunities and the facilities offered by the Government, he, together with Dr.T.M.Nair founded the South Indian Liberal Federation, otherwise known as the "Justice Party."

Sir P.Theagaraya sat in the Legislative Council in 1910-1922 and it was sailing for him. In the referred council he was confronted by an opponent of unusual prowess, the Swarajist leader, S.Satyamurthy.

By assisting in shaping and reinforcing the policies and programmes of the Justice Party, Theagaraya paved the way for the many momentous enactments of the party's Ministry during his time and afterwards.

Sir P.Theagaraya served on the Corporation of Madras for more than 40 years. In 1909 the title of 'Rao Bahadur' was conferred on him and, in 1919 the title of "Dewan Bahadur" and he was made a 'knight' in 1921.

Sir P.Theagaraya was always straight forward, whether his words, pleased or displeased his hearers. His charity was boundless. He helped many in distress, led thousands from indigence and idleness to gainful occupations, guided useful movements and built up benevolent institutions. His life was sunshine to all around him. His death on 30th June, 1925, at the age of 73, was widely lamented.

(Preface)

The Tale of the Anklet Silappathikaram

Play by

Dr. M. KARUNANIDHI

Poompuhar: We have listened to the song of the waves on many a shore but the poignant tune of the waves that roll in the sea of Kaveripoompattinam of the present takes us to a world far, far away from the world today. And what we are transported to is the world of Tamil literature of nostalgic antiquity, drenched in nectar perennially sweet.

The beauteous City of Poompuhar was on the banks of Cauvery, where the River meets and emerges with the billowing sea. The City with its three sectors, namely Pattinapakkam, Maruvoorpakkam and Nalangadi - where the landmarks where the Grand Arch which the King of Avanti had constructed as a gift to Karikal Chola, the auditorium of Pearls which was a present from the Monarch of Vajra and the pavilion which was a tribute from the Ruler of Magadha - is today under the sea. But the renown of the City reigns supreme even now and all the oceans of the world cannot draw a veil over it.

As long as the Chera Prince-Poet Ilango's Epic Silappathikaram is on record, the fame of Poompuhar, the greatness of Mathurai, the valour of Vanchi and, in short, the glory of Tamilagam shall remain undimmed.

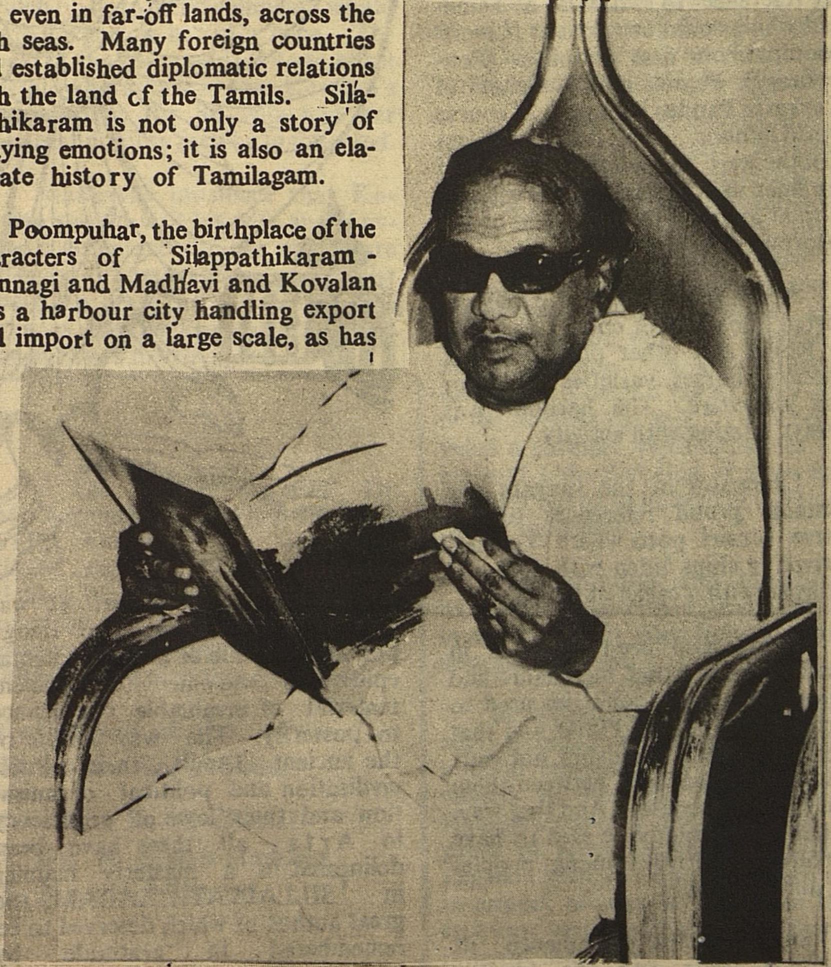
The characters delineated by the royal ascetic Ilango Adigal-Kovalan and Kannagi and Madhavi of dulcet speech, Nedunchezhian the Pandya King who sacrificed his life at the altar of justice and Senguttuvan, the Chera Monarch, who led an expedition to the North in order to hew rock from the Himalayas for the Statue of Kannagi - send a message in unison to us that singing the prasie of the Tamil people is a noble exercise that has no point of satiation. And this Play based on Ilango's Epic is the outcome of that emotion and enthusiasm.

As a member of the vast ranks ever vigilant in the cause of Tamil and the Tamil people, I have been impelled to this effort by my affection and love for the language of everlasting fragrance and eternal grandeur. Active service to Tamil is the first and foremost of my duties and this attempt is but a step in that direction.

The Tamils have a long and venerable history and their writ had run even in far-off lands, across the high seas. Many foreign countries had established diplomatic relations with the land of the Tamils. Silapathikaram is not only a story of eddying emotions; it is also an elaborate history of Tamilagam.

Poompuhar, the birthplace of the characters of Silappathikaram - Kannagi and Madhavi and Kovalan was a harbour city handling export and import on a large scale, as has been recorded in detail, in Pattinappalai: "Steeds from across the seas and loads of pepper delivered by barges from inland; gems and gold from the northern hills, sandalwood and akhil from the western ghats, pearls brought from the southern sea and coral from the eastern sea; goods from the plains of the Ganga and produce from the banks of the Cauvery itself - a resplendent sight, the scene of active prosperity here." Karikalan was a Chola Monarch of great renown, who ruled from this Capital and his period has been estimated to be from 60B.C. to 10 B.C.

It was during this time that Augustus Caesar ruled in Rome (i.e.) from 39 B.C. to 14 A.D. It is clear that the Tamil King who sent Envoys to the Court of Augustus Caesar was Pandyan Peruvazhuthi. Trade relations had been established between Rome and Tamilagam a long time before, but the ties became closer only after Karikalan and Peruvazhuthi were crowned. The friendship between Rome and Tamil-



agam flourished steadily thereafterwards and it can be said that decline set in, only after the period of King Nero of Rome. Archaeology has yielded impressive material testifying to the friendly relations between Rome and Tamilagam.

The Greeks and the Romans were called 'Yavanas' here and quite a few of them were in employment in Tamilnad as Palace-guards. Tamil literature contains ample references to this fact. Mention is made in Silappathikaram of the Yavanas with swords fierce in battle making excellent guards.

Pepper formed the main item of export from Tamilagam to Rome. It is said that when Rome was subjugated once, it was ordered to pay 3,000 pounds of Tamilnad-pepper to the Conqueror.

In the place called Colachal, South of Musiri, convicts sentenced to death were made to dive for pearls, for export to Rome.

In the records of Ptolemy there are references to two ports of Tamilnad which could be taken as Kaveripoompatinam and Pudhuvai (Pondicherry) Pearls and conches of Korkai in Pandya land were, of course, world famous. That the pearls from Korkai were matchless is seen from the lines in Ahananooru; "Pearls of Korkai guarded by the virtue of the valorous Pandyas...."

Apart from Pearls, Korkai exported fine cloth of cotton and silk, to Rome and other places; and it imported horses, varieties of liquor and glassware. The harbour was always buzzing with activity.

Literature of the sangam age contains proud references to the active Musiri port, where Yavanas arrived in ships laden with gold and returned with a cargo of pepper.

It has also been recorded in Tamil literature that merchants and sailors from many countries used to arrive at the port of Puhar and that there was great friendship not only among them but also between them and the local people. And that way, Puhar can certainly be said to have nurtured fraternity among peoples of different lands.

Such was the prominence in maritime trade and the historic greatness of Poompuhar. It was against this backdrop that Ilango placed the theme of his monumental epic that had in it sufficient material of invaluable importance to posterity. The way of life of the ancient Tamils, their culture, civilisation and political organisation and their love of proficiency in Arts - all these have been delineated in a masterly manner in 'SILLAPPATHIKARAM', the great author of which deserved to be remembered in gratitude by historians too.

The story of SILAPPATHIKARAM has formed the basis for very many new stories in Tamilnadu. A spate of stage-Plays too cropped up on the subject totally discarding the literary finesse, artistic splendour, historical background and the nobility of the characters of the original. In the process Kannagi became 'Karnagi', Kovalan turned into 'Kovilan' and Madhavi was transformed into 'Madhagi', to be sinned against in that name. And all this caused unbearable anguish

to those who had studied SILAPPATHIKARAM.

I am one of those who feel that it is no fault to effect a few changes in the presentation of the story, if such changes lend strength to the fundamentals enunciated by the author of the Epic. Likewise it is no fault to portray the characters with added details, as long as such portrayal does no violence to the nature of the characters.

Also, it would not be inappropriate or improper if a few alterations are made, in tune with the spirit of the times, without of course deflecting the purpose of the story. It would be equally proper if certain ideas are emphasised that might have been left out by the author and certain reasons listed which the author might not have felt the need to record, in his time; that these insertions do not overflow the boundaries of the theme of the original should be the sole criterion.

With these objects in view, I have made bold to put through certain alterations while writing this Play of Ilango's Epic. I am listing a few instances:-

In the Epic, Madhavi gives a garland to the hunch-backed lady and asks her to hawk it in the street, the idea being that she (Madhavi) would marry whoever can afford to purchase the garland. Such an indiscriminate choice of a bride-groom does not appear to do justice to a sensitive damsel like Madhavi who later merges her personality so thoroughly with that of Kovalan, a handsome youngman and a connoisseur of Art. So I have gone with Ilango, only up to the point where the condition is stipulated for eligibility to woo Madhavi. There afterwards, I have deviated from the original and added a sequence involving an old Greek. And incidentally I could also point out the links between Tamilnad and Greece, of those times.

"The version in SILAPPATHIKARAM is that, on buying the garland, Kovalan went straight away to Madhavi's house. It certainly does not seem logical to convey that the affection which Kovalan had for Kannagi evaporated all of a sudden. I could not find it in my heart to come out with an affirmative answer to the question as to whether Kovalan who had described his adoring wife so spontaneously as "the gem which the earth could not have yielded and the melody which no harp could campass" would have forgotton her in a trice. The logic of the situation led me to effect certain alterations so that Kovalan's abiding love for his wife and her inherent nobility may be highlighted.

Madhavi's insistence that Kovalan should visit his wife and Kovalan's acceptance of her advice are additions in detail, intended to assist Ilango to draw the attention of readers to Madhavi's good heart and the purity of her thoughts.

Madhavi was not after Kovalan's wealth. And yet Kovalan's riches disintegrate and he is reduced to penury. It is to clear this apparent contradiction that I concluded that Madhavi's people must have abstracted Kovalan's wealth by imposing on Kannagi, and without Madhavi herself being aware of their machinations. When she does come to know of their tricks, all she can do is to return the gold to Kovalan's parents and again this gesture underlines her nobility.

I have not made the Goldsmith guilty of the theft of the Anklet. This deviation from the Epic is to bring the story into pace with the times; and the change does not interfere with what follows the theft of the Anklet.

Pandya King Nedunchezhiyan's literary contribution, in the form of a poem on learning, included in Purananooru, does not find mention in SILAPPATHIKARAM. I have supplied the omission.

The dramatic element in the sea-side scene which Kovalan parts from Madhavi is only an elaboration around the nucleus in the original.

It is hard to sell anklets or earrings except in a pair. Kovalan could not have been ignorant of this and if he had actually taken both of the Anklets for sale, there would have been no grounds for anyone to suspect him and the story of course would not have had a climax and Kannagi would not have become a militant heroine. The entire tragedy hinges on Kovalan taking only one of the Anklets for sale. I have provided a rational explanation for his act and I do feel that it does add strength to the sequences as developped in the Epic.

These changes and alterations have also helped to a great extent, in evolving this play from Ilango's Silappathikaram.

In the course of the Play, I have also included adaptations of two popular legends from the West one related to illustrate Sir Walter Raleigh's chivalry and the other in proof of King Solomon's wisdom. Legends such as these are universal in appeal, as may be seen from the fact that versions of them are there, in many languages.

COVER PAGE

The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi, distributed Pavendar Award to the under mentioned poets at 'Pavendar Bharathidasan Birthday Celebrations' organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations on 29-4-'89 at Kalaivanar Arangam.

Recipients of the Pavendar Award.

1. **Kavignar Mudiarasan**
2. **Kavignar Ponnivalavan**
3. **Kavignar Abdur Rahuman**

The Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi, distributed Thiru. Vi.Ka. Award to the undermentioned writers at 'Pavender Bharatidasan Birthday Celebrations' organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations on 29-4-89 at Kalaivanar Arangam.

Recipients of the Thiru Vi. Ka. Award.

1. **Thiru K. M. Sheriff**
2. **Dr. N. Subbu Reddiar**
3. **Manavai Mustafa**

Anna's thought on the book

'THE TALE OF THE ANKLET'

Silapathikaram : The very name is scinitillating—There is rhythm and melody in it, and just as 'the Silambu—The Anklet contained gems of rare value, the Epic contains not a mere story but the very spirit of ancient Tamilagam.

The story itself is of a high order—it portrays two types of womanhood - KANNAGI and MADHAVI, the former bearing troubles and tribulations—tears and sighs due to separation from her husband, KOVALAN; the latter, a cultured damsel of dazzling beauty and delightful temperament, well versed in the Art of love, pure and noble—not a mercenary nor an embodiment of seduction and coquetry, but one who twined herself with Kovalan, with warmth and depth, and gave unto him her very soul.

Kovalan too is not of the usual type—the frivolous youth with tons of gold to squander-but a respectable young man, with an honoured place in society and hailing from a family of Merchant-Magnate.

Romance of the sweetest order-between Kovalan and Madhavi - their music and dance, unfolded in this classic does not bring before us the life of a depraved young man and a despicable damsel but the life of two lovers—we find not the crocodile catching its prey, but the Swan of the purest white, gliding in the rivulet with melodious movement.

It is not the story about the coquetry of a courtesan but the story of an abandonment of self-there is such a perfect reciprocity as between the two, that though reminded about the tear-laden eyes of Kannagi, the episode does not kindle feelings of nausea or irrita-tion. What has happened, one is led to think, is something to the regretted but along with that we are led also to exclaim, what perfect combination! What a superb romance.

> Silappathikaram is one of the five fine classics of Tamil Literature. It was written by Ilango, a Prince turned ascetic. The story of Silappathikaram was turned into a Play "Poompuhar' by Dr.M.Karunanidhi. The English Translation of this Play was published under the title "Tale of the Anklet".

The very portrayal of such characters, unless it comes from a master-hand is bound to create feelings of disgust-but no, Ilango, the poet-prince of "Chera Nadu" handles the theme in so superb a manner that we along with Kannagi, bear with patience and with no malice Kovalan's sojourn into the "not-strictly" correct path.

The Romantic aspect leads us on to the side of poignancy and pathos. While Kovalan and Madhavi are entwined in the fragrance of the new-found love, we find Kannagi strong enough to bear the pang-not indifferent to what has happened to her-yet strong enough to bear the bleeding of her heart.

With what bright hopes, this damsel of no mean beauty began her wedded life with Kovalan !

"Gold with no blemish
Fragrance of the highest order
Pearls of the noblest type...."

—in such a vein does Kovalan put forth his love towards Kannagi—and yet, leaves her to pine for that love, while he enters into the mansion of music and dance.

No lover of the Tamil Classics can resist being inspired by Silappathikaram, one amongst the Five Fine Classics of Tamil Literature. Ilango's magic touch makes every portion of this engrossing Epic so true to nature that when one is reading Silappathikaram, he is taken to Ancient Tamilagam, with all the pageantry alive, Nature's beauty laid before us, a veritable panorama of events and a parade of different types—and all pulsating with life—with brilliance all around.

It is most appropirate that THAMBI KARUNANIDHI should give us Silappathikaram in his own inimitable diction and under the caption"POOMPUHAR" for his command over the Tamil language and his mastery over the art of portrayal, so well-known and so well appreciated, gives him fit enough right to renderSilappathikaram in the dramatic from keeping the high standard of diction intact, and at the same time embellish it with certain interpretations of events so as to offer logical explanations to some of the events that appear to us as being inexplicable, may even unwanted.

The part assigned to the Greek Merchant as having been instrumental for the episode that took Kovalan to Madhavi's mansion, offers an appropriate explanation to Kovalan's action. He didnot allow himself to be enticed nor did he seek pleasure and frolic; he had to defend the fair name of Tamilnadu and the fairest damsel from falling to the grip of an old man from Greece.

"Why don't you meet Madhavi once, my lord! and convince

her that she is yearning for the impossible".

It is this plea from Kannagi that takes an otherwise unwilling Kovalan to Madhavi's abode not the flame of sensuality kindled by Madhavi's seductive beauty. He saw in her Art in its finest form nothing more. And circumstances not of his creation lead him to her abode he goes to advise and remains to become a co-partner in a new life of sweet melody.

Another and a far more important interpretation to an event to be found in Silappathikaram is given in an able manner by M.Karunanidhi

It is well-known that Silappathikaram depicts the Chief Goldsmith of the Palace as the real offender and from that has sprung forth an impression which has affected the very self-respect of an entire community.

Though none can charge Ilango with that motive, the consequence of that has been, that the entire community was forced to bear odium

This odium Karunanidhi has deftly removed, for as a firm believer in the maintenance of concord between various communities, he wanted to erase this blot. And this is done in his 'poompuhar' in an admirable way.

Not the Goldsmith, but a petty officer of the Royal household of Pandyan Nedunchezhian, is presented as the real culprit. This is done to maintain social justice and such interpretation to ancient episodes becomes quite justifiable and necessary - and it is done with the best of motives. And this has been admired and appreciated by not only the members of that maligned community but also authors who render ancient classics in modern form.

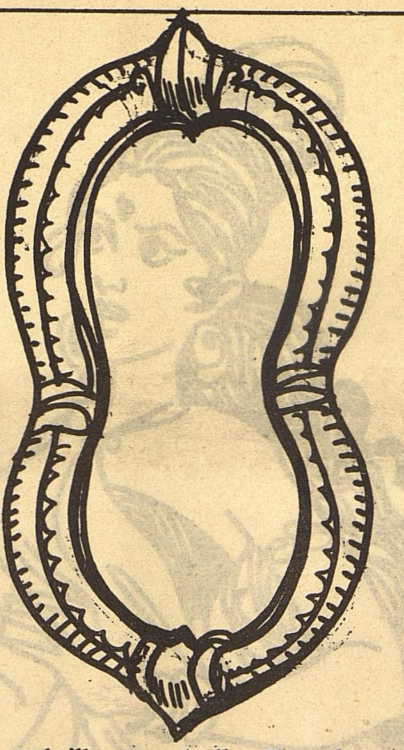
Apart from such deft handling the entire rendering of the Epic, in prose form, is done in such an admirable way that neither the fragrance nor the form found in Silappathikaram is lost-in fact the melody is there as sweet as Ilango gave it.

While the first part of Silappathikaram contains the life story of a young man and a fair courtesan, the later part rises to a height that is breath-taking. Events march on with rapidity and dramatic turns. He who became immersed in Madhavi's beauty finds himself estranged! What was once an abode of superb delight, becomes a place to be shunned. He returns-disillusioned-impoverished--conscious of the injustice meeted out to his Kannagi--with remorse and regrets, with only one aim in life, to begin the conjugal life that was cut asunder, to lead a new life--with none other than Kannagi to claim him! Tears of joy and hope come gushing forth during the scene depicted about Kovalan rejoining Kannagi. She did not wait in vain, here comes her Kovalan, back to life, back home-- once again this home will become bright and happy, once again the delightful embrace and the sweet smile, home that has lost its brightness and has been engulfed in darkness and desolation is to become bright again-here comes Kovalan to lit once more the lamp of love. Tears no more Kannagi! No more to pang! Smile! Laugh! Dance with delight! He whom you had lost, you have regained! No more need you be single and solitary, here comes Kovalan! It is with such warmth and hope almost glee that we welcome the home-coming of Kovalan. And yet . . . . !

The Poet of the highest order, Ilango, takes us and them not to a new life and happiness regained, but to a scene, that brings forth tears of blood.

Karunanidhi rises to great heights while portraying the pathos of Kannagi when she is confronted with Kovalan beheaded! What woman can bear the death of her husband! what woman can bear insult done to her husband! Here lies Kovalan, beheaded, falsely accused, hastily judged and savagely disposed of. What can a helpless Kannagi do! It is the Royal King who has been responsible for this. The deed is dastardly, but the author is no ordinary man, the powerful and well-learned Pandyan has ordered this.

Why? How?-- screams forth Kannagi and her fury causes echoes



that thrill one and all. She refuses to remain bemoaning the loss! She refuses to allow the blemish to stick on to the fair name of Kovalan. No. Justice should be established, Justice I shall get, thunders forth Kannagi, and dashes onward to the Royal Court, to demand justice.

Kannagi's pleading, her arguments, her admonition as depicted by Karunanidhi is thrilling and is so realistic, that we are tempted to join her in her anger, curse, accusation and admonition. The volcano erupts, the sea becomes stormy, the wailing widow becomes the supreme Law giver - King thou art not, Oh, Pandya! and King thou shall not be! -- roars this 'Pathini' -- the whole pant -up fury bursts forth. It is not easy for a writer to depict this faithfully and in a fine form. Karunanidhi has succeeded exceedingly well, in establishing his claim as a writer of superb style!

> "Speak my Lord
> Speak but a word
> Speak to Kannagi
> Speak, your Kannagi has come."

With tears flowing she screams and screams! But then gets no response he is dead. And then she says,

> "Though speakest not
> My Lord
> But hear this.
> Make I shall the
> Whole world to speak
> on your behalf...."

And Kannagi has made the world speak--not only the world of her day--but the world for all times to come.

Throughout, Karunanidhi has kept up the easy flow, the elegance and the fragrance so essential for a classic.

Karunanidhi's 'Poompuhar' rendered into English under the title "Tale of the Anklet"--is itself an anklet-- the gold of Ilango is there--and the workmanship of this writer of eminence is to be found in abundance.

Silappathikaram has got a theme of perennial interest--and its appeal is not confined to Tamilagam alone. It is a world subject- a classic of such a high order that it has a right to be acclaimed by the world of letters as a whole. The rendering of "Poompuhar" in English is timely and the author responsible for this deserves our admiration and congratulations Mr.T.G.Narayanaswamy has done full justice to the subject and style to be found in "Poompuhar" of Karunanidhi.

Karunanidhi has done a fine service to Tamil literature by bringing forth 'Poompuhar' and the English rendering has made it possible for a wider domain than Tamilagam to get the thrill and message that Ilango Adigal offers through Silappathikaram.

If we have anyone thing to offer to the wide world as proof positive of the eminence we once held, It is the Tamil Classics and of the Five Fine Classics, Silapathikaram is a gem of rare brillance. And this English rendering fulfils a long-felt need and I have great pleasure in welcoming this English version of "Poompuhar". Let the fragrance of Poompuhar, the City of Flowers spread far and wide, and let the world realise the 'glory that was Tamilagam Long live Tamil! Long Live Tamilagam!

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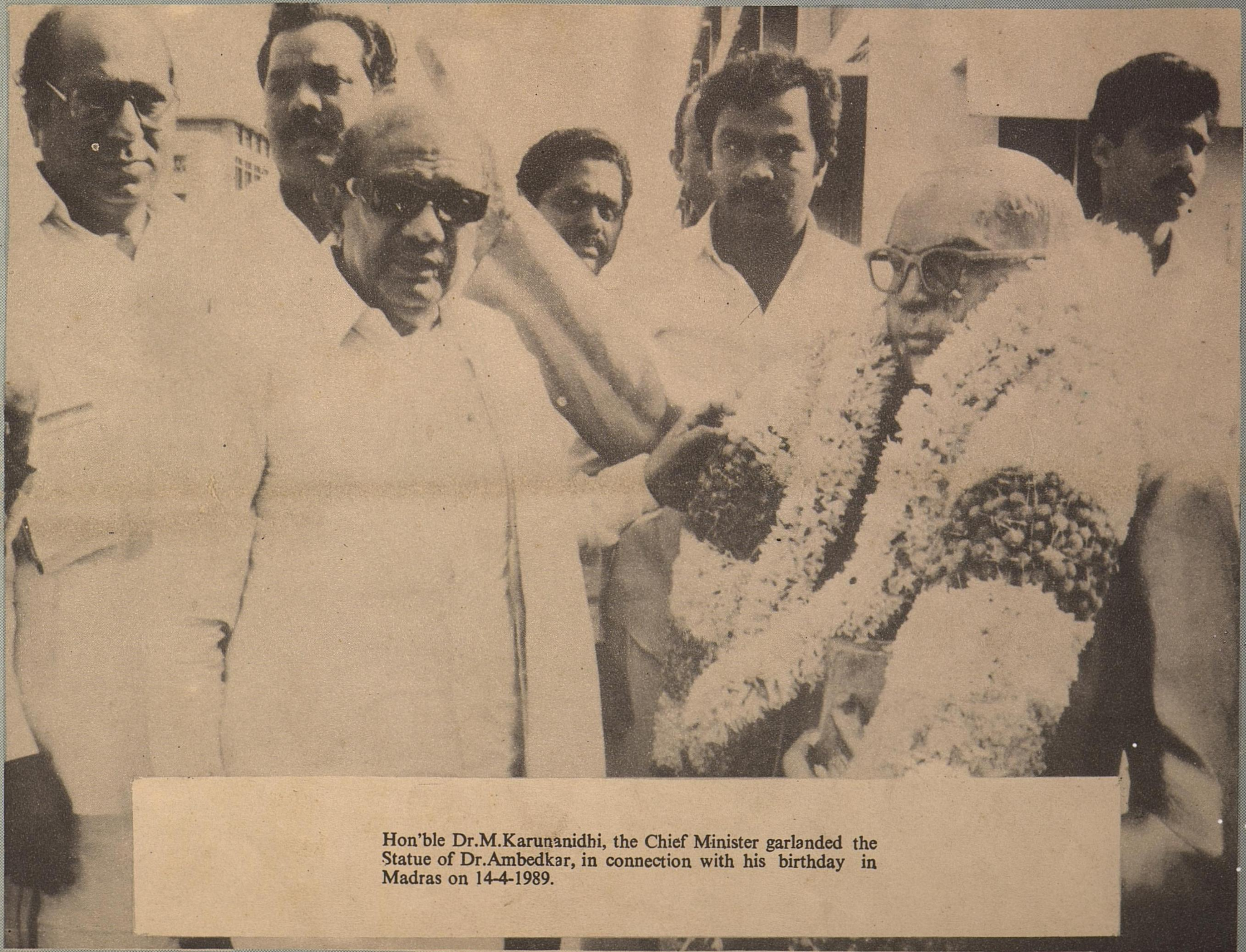

Hon'ble Dr.M.Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister garlanded the Statue of Dr.Ambedkar, in connection with his birthday in Madras on 14-4-1989.